

Title: **Tourists wreak havoc inflood**  
 Author: BY AUDREY HUDSON ahudson@thesunnews.com  
 Size: 59.52 column inches  
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



## WACCAMAW RIVER

# Tourists wreak havoc in flood

■ Waccamaw River residents in Conway say speeding boaters are causing more damage to homes.

BY AUDREY HUDSON

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The unintended consequence of living in a natural disaster area is the tourist attraction it creates, and along the flooded Waccamaw River, sightseers are causing even more damage to homes surrounded by downed trees and rising water.

Waccamaw Drive residents say they are used to sightseers when the river floods, and don't mind the occasional kayak paddler or motorboat slowly skimming by their houses.

But some have to yell at the

speeding boaters as they race by their neighborhood, warning them to slow down before the wake rolls through their homes.

Wayne Cooper shouted at four sightseers in a boat Tuesday morning who were creating three-foot waves that knocked his and his neighbor's lawnmower off of blocks that were intended to keep the machines from floating away.

"You've got lawnmowers being washed off blocks, you've got TVs, you've got refrigerators, all types of stuff. Whatever people have

downstairs that they already put up above the water, when someone makes the water several feet higher in a matter of seconds, it's going to wash off," Cooper said.

"I call it ignorance, I don't know what else to say," Cooper said. "If you don't know any better at this point of a major flood, then you're ignorant to what's going on around you."

Emy Chamberlain says it's not

**SEE FLOOD, 8A**

**FROM PAGE 1A**

## FLOOD

just the homes already flooded, but houses on stilts that are also damaged by boat wake.

"When they come by, they're splashing water into those houses. Either way, it causes a big problem. It's a breeding ground for mold, and then people have to tear out their carpets," Chamberlain said.

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources has patrol boats on the river for security, rescue assistance and to warn boaters to slow down.

But it's not just the tourists who are causing prob-

lems. Cooper and his wife, Charlotte, said a DNR boat created a roll of waves when it preplaned by their house doing 10 mph on Monday.

"Maybe they had an emergency or something," offered Charlotte Cooper.

Sgt. Nate Hutson with DNR said an official could have been heading to an emergency, or trying to get enough power to manage steering upstream in the rushing water.

"When those guys are coming upstream, the water is running so fast they have little space to manage the

boat," Hutson said. "We want to provide security and keep it at a minimum speed, but it's impossible to keep it completely down, unless we're going downstream, then we can just float."

"But, we do advise our guys to lead by example," Hutson said.

When DNR encounters boaters on the river, unless they are trying to access their own property, officials are telling them that now is not the time for pleasure cruising.

"We are advising them to keep it at idle speed, specifically around homes, due to

the fact that wake does cause a lot of damage. Just like the ocean crashing on shore and washing out sand, waves from a boat can wash out the foundation from a home and do some destruction," Hutson said.

In addition to that state agency, officers from the S.C. Law Enforcement Division are also on the river in boats and utilizing a helicopter to spot residents who need to be rescued from flooded areas, said agency spokesman Thom Berry.

Gov. Nikki Haley said during a news conference



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Tuesday that more than 200 rescue missions have occurred in flooded areas, which included 30 pets and five goats.

The National Weather Service crest predictions for the Waccamaw River have varied significantly since alerts were first issued.

The most recent forecast issued Tuesday afternoon said the river could reach 16.6 feet on Sunday and crest early next week. That's a half-foot above last year, making this event the second highest flood on record.

The Little Pee Dee River at Galivants Ferry was expected to crest at a record high of 17 feet Tuesday afternoon.

Once the Waccamaw crests, it takes a week for the water to recede.

For the foreseeable future, officers from the Horry County Police Department have established 14 checkpoints at flooded road entrances to prevent the public from driving onto flooded roads and to provide security for the neighborhood.

"They are there to protect property, to make sure that only property owners access property, for security, to troubleshoot any issues with property owners and provide information as needed," said Lisa Bourcier, Horry County spokeswoman.

"They will probably be there for another 10 days, at least until people can get

back to their property. We will just have to wait and see," she said.

Until then, Waccamaw River residents who are hurricane weary with downed trees, no electricity, and a

flooded neighborhood that requires wading through waist-high water or a boat to leave their home, are asking boaters to slow down.

"I know people are curious and they just want to see what's going on, and that's okay as long as they paddle or idle by so there's not a wake," said Charlotte Cooper.

"But our things are already being ruined, and all they are doing is washing more stuff away," she said.

Audrey Hudson:  
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**IF YOU DON'T  
KNOW ANY BETTER  
AT THIS POINT OF A  
MAJOR FLOOD,  
THEN YOU'RE  
IGNORANT TO  
WHAT'S GOING ON  
AROUND YOU.**

Wayne Cooper, Waccamaw  
River resident

Title: **Governor shows real leadership**

Author:

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## Governor shows real leadership

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Gov. Nikki Haley for her amazing leadership in preparing South Carolina for what I believe has become the worst natural disaster in the 12 years I have lived in the area, and for her continuing leadership and direction in the recovery effort. The credit also belongs to the men and women of the law enforcement agencies, the municipalities, the S.C. Department of Transportation, the utilities, the S.C. National Guard and various contractors.

On Sunday morning, I left my home in Longs, first driving 15 miles west to Loris then back again and 28 miles northeast to Shalotte, N.C., looking for a place to eat and to get a cup of coffee — without success. Along the way, there were

dozens of crews from the aforementioned entities clearing roads, directing traffic, repairing power substations and raising downed power lines.

I did not see one functioning traffic light.

We were lucky and had power restored within 26 hours. Many others are still without power but I understand an additional 400,000 customers were brought on line since yesterday. Today there are more businesses open and more functional traffic lights.

This is truly an amazing recovery effort, with everyone working so well together. It will take some time but I am confident the restoration will be completed as soon as possible.

I am also amazed by the resilience of the citizens of South Carolina.

— Ted Van Weeren, Longs

Title: **SCRepublicans standby Trump despite vulgar video**

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## SC Republicans stand by Trump despite vulgar video

BY CASSIE COPE  
AND AVERY G. WILKS

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Most S.C. GOP leaders will vote for Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump despite a vulgar video from 2005 that surfaced over the weekend.

In the video, Trump used crude language when telling former "Access Hollywood" co-host Billy Bush that he tried to seduce Nancy O'Dell, a Clemson University graduate and Miss South Carolina 1987.

S.C. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, who delivered a speech nominating Trump at the Republican National Convention, said he still plans to support his party's

nominee.

"Nobody can defend that offensive conversation," McMaster said. But, he added, Trump has apologized.

"I am strongly for Donald Trump," McMaster said, adding other issues are more important, including control of the Supreme Court. "Nothing's changed."

Meanwhile, S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley, who previously had said she would vote for Trump, said Monday she is not focused on politics, concentrating instead on the Palmetto State's recovery from Hurricane Matthew.

"I really have total tunnel vision on making sure that we get South Carolina up and running," Haley said. "Politically, I'm checked out from all that."

SEE REACT, 6A

“

**I AM STRONGLY  
FOR DONALD TRUMP.  
NOTHING'S CHANGED.**

*Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster*

FROM PAGE 3A

## REACT

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, R-Charleston, told the Post and Courier that he still will vote for Trump but criticized the video. "That's awful; it's disgusting," Scott said of the video. "It's not even a question on what he was involved in. Whatever he was involved in, I would never stick around to hear the end of that story."

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-Seneca, weighed in on Twitter over the weekend, criticizing the business mogul and reality TV star again. Graham, who unsuccessfully ran for the GOP nomination this year, previously had said he will not vote for Trump.

But three S.C. GOP congressmen said they will vote for Trump anyway.

"As a father to three boys who

has taught them that women are to be cherished and respected, I found Donald Trump's comments to be horrendous and indefensible," said U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan, R-Laurens. "That being said, I continue to be more concerned with Hillary Clinton's actions than I am with Donald Trump's words."

U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-Springdale, said he still supports Trump, too. "I appreciate Mr. Trump has apologized for his indefensible comments," Wilson said in a statement, adding: "Yet Secretary Clinton has never apologized for her indefensible conduct."

U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-Spartanburg, said Trump's comments are indefensible and do not reflect the values of the Republican Party. Gowdy said

he told his mother, wife, daughter and three sisters that Trump's comments were not "locker room" talk, as Trump his portrayed them. "I have been in many locker rooms and have never heard this kind of talk. There are men — in politics and out — who respect women at all times in public and in private."

Gowdy went on to criticize Clinton for calling Trump's supporters deplorable, and Democrats for "rigging the primary to deny Bernie Sanders a chance."

U.S. Reps. Mick Mulvaney, R-Indian Land; Tom Rice, R-Myrtle Beach, and Mark Sanford, R-Charleston, did not respond to requests for comment.

Cassie Cope: 803-771-8657

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Author: BY CASSIE COPE AND AVERY G. WILKS ccope@thestate.com, awilks@thestate.com"

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FILE PHOTOGRAPH The State

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster shares the stage with presidential contender Donald Trump in February.



Title: **Officials focus on floods and power outages**  
 Author: BY AVERY G. WILKS [awilks@thestate.com](mailto:awilks@thestate.com)  
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## HURRICANE MATTHEW

# Officials focus on floods and power outages

Some 400,000 in SC remain without electricity; 400 roads and bridges still closed

BY AVERY G. WILKS  
[awilks@thestate.com](mailto:awilks@thestate.com)

Flooding from rising rivers and potential dam failures topped S.C. officials' concerns Monday, two days after Hurricane Matthew churned past the S.C. coast.

No additional deaths were reported, leaving the storm's toll at three.

Meanwhile, more than 400 roads and bridges remained closed, and more than 400,000 South Car-

olinians remained without power.

By midday Monday, authorities had rescued 162 people from floodwaters in the state's Pee Dee region, where six dams had failed.

S.C. officials said they were "extremely concerned" about flooding along the Little Pee Dee, Lumber and Waccamaw rivers. They also were watching the Black River.

"The flooding from the rivers has been unfortunate, and what we are seeing is just a lot of damage," said S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley, who took an aerial tour of the area Monday morning. "Most first floors are gone if not homes altogether. We saw cars lost, impassable roads."

**SEE STORM, 7A**

**➔ MORE INSIDE**

Chaos lingers in waterlogged North Carolina, **6A**

**Ariail:** Buzzed but still standing, **2C**

**Palmetto:** Pictures show Hurricane Matthew's power, **1C**

**FROM PAGE 1A**

## STORM

Haley asked President Barack Obama for a disaster declaration that would free up federal money to help pay for recovery.

S.C. regulators had concerns about 250 dams across the state and had inspected 161 by midday on Monday.

Of the seven dams that have failed, six were in Dillon, Darlington, Clarendon or Horry counties, some of the areas worst hit by the weekend's storm. A seventh breached dam was at Baywater Drive in Lexington County, according to Catherine Heigel, director of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Officials were watching two other "significant hazards" Pee Dee dams for

potential failures, she said.

Late Monday, the U.S. Geological Survey said the Lumber River was at higher than 22 feet, the Waccamaw at nearly 16 feet and the Little Pee Dee at higher than 15 feet. Each of those figures indicates "major" flooding, according to the National Weather Service.

All three rivers are expected to stay at major flood stages through this week.

The Little Pee Dee is not expected to crest for days, and it could be two weeks before the Waccamaw crests, according to S.C. Department of Natural Resources director Alvin Taylor.

"It's very difficult when

you're looking at those rivers. Most of the models work well with rainfall, but when you have dam breaches upstream, the models are very difficult to follow," Taylor said. "That's why we have eyes on the ground day and night watching those rivers."

Haley said Monday the state had asked the president for a disaster declaration that would provide recovery money through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Haley's request covered 13 counties. More could be added.

Obama signed disaster declarations Sunday for Florida and Georgia but by late Monday had not

signed a declaration for the Palmetto State.

A presidential disaster declaration for 35 S.C. counties after last fall's historic flooding paved the way for FEMA to provide more than \$164 million to more than 28,000 survivors.

It also allowed FEMA to subsidize government agencies' disaster recovery projects, needed after the flooding knocked out roads, bridges and other infrastructure.

With FEMA paying for as much as 75 percent of each project – from debris removal to repairing roads and bridges – the state and 33 of its counties received nearly \$75 million in federal "public assistance"

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dollars.

As of Monday evening, 407 S.C. roads and 27 bridges remained closed because of storm debris or flooding.

More than 1,500 state workers had been dispatched to clear the remaining roads, most of which were secondary or low-traffic routes, S.C. Department of Transportation chief Christy Hall said.

"That's our focus now, to push in those areas," Hall said.

More than 406,715 S.C. customers were without power late Monday, down from more than 866,000 on Saturday night.

Sustained, high winds inland and torrential rainfall from the storm chewed through power poles and crippled transmission stations, triggering massive power failures, according to utilities in the state.

Some utilities warned customers it could be Sunday before all power is restored, though most electricity should return

much sooner.

Nearly 85,360 SCE&G customers remained without power on Monday afternoon. Nearly 2,000 of those were in the Columbia area.

SCE&G should restore power Tuesday to all Midlands customers, according to Keller Kissam, the utility's retail operations vice president.

Lowcountry SCE&G customers should have power restored by the end of the week, he said. However, the lights could be out in parts of Beaufort County until early next week.

"We are moving very well with utilities," Haley said. "They are really on top of this, moving as fast as they can, and will continue to do so."

The state still had 2,184 evacuees staying in more than 42 shelters Monday morning, with plans to consolidate some locations, Haley said.

S.C. officials Monday asked for donations to the One S.C. Fund, originally

created to help survivors rebuild from the 2015 flooding. That fund distributed \$2 million in grants to nonprofits working on flood recovery projects, helping more than 1,500 families return home.

Monetary donations address needs better than donated supplies, which are costly to warehouse and distribute, said Marcia Adams, director of the S.C. Department of Administration.

Staff writers Roddie Burris, Tim Flach, Bristow Marchant and Jamie Self contributed. Avery G. Wilks: 803-771-8362, [@averygwilks](https://twitter.com/averygwilks)

## Matthew's toll

### Monday's count

**407**

road closures

**27**

bridge closures

**406,715**

power outages remaining

**250**

dams that state officials said they were concerned about

**7**

confirmed dam failures

**31**

school districts closed; others will open Tuesday on a delayed schedule



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Alan Johnson and his dad, Red, carry out items from a storeroom that was hit by nearly 3 feet of storm surge. Their home is in Tansi Village on Fig Island.



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PHOTOGRAPHS BY TIM DOMINICK [tdominick@thestate.com](mailto:tdominick@thestate.com)

A sailboat and catamaran are washed up near the runway of Beaufort County Airport.

Title: **USC football game**  
Author:  
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### USC football game

(R)ather than moving Saturday night's scheduled game against Georgia at Williams-Brice Stadium to Atlanta, as some proposed, USC officials decided merely to delay it until Sunday afternoon.

The impulse to avoid giving up a home game for the second straight season — and the millions in revenue it brings to the school — is understandable.

However, the choice to keep the game in Columbia, albeit kicking off 19 hours later than initially planned, is irresponsible.

Yes, college football is a big deal in our state. But so is a state of emergency due to a weather crisis. ...

Gov. Nikki Haley has rightly signaled frustration over USC's dubious call to play that game this weekend despite the hurricane. As she pointed out Thursday, law enforcement personnel must focus on their demanding — and critical — storm-related duties, not on providing traffic and security services at a sporting event that could draw more than 80,000 fans.

— *Post & Courier*  
Charleston

Title: **Have there been break-ins? What refrigerated food is OK?**  
 Author: STAFF REPORTS newsroom@islandpacket.com  
 Size: 70.52 column inches  
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



## YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

# Have there been break-ins? What refrigerated food is OK?

### 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: Have there been reports of break-ins in Beaufort County?**

**A:** Capt. Bob Bromage of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office said officers have responded to 27 calls of break-ins or burglaries since Gov. Nikki Haley's evacuation orders were given last Wednesday.

Of those, nine proved to be actual break-in cases.

"Deputies are responding to reports," Bromage said. "We hope it's a very low number, based on the curfew and other steps that were taken. But we do anticipate (some incidents)."

#### **Q: What refrigerated food is OK to keep after a power outage?**

**A:** The most obvious way to know is the good old sniff test.

If it doesn't smell like it did when you left, you probably want to toss it. Don't rely solely on this, though, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services does not recommend people taste food to find out whether it's still OK.

Check for the "refrigerate after opening" label. If you lost power for a significant amount of time, then those items are probably goners.

#### **Q: Am I allowed to start burning tree branches and yard refuse?**

**A:** No.

The South Carolina Forestry Commission has issued a statewide burning ban until further notice to reduce possible wildfire ignitions, according to the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office.

This will allow the Forestry Commission and local fire departments to focus on emergency operations related to re-entry, the release said.

Citizens are advised to be extremely vigilant until the ban has lifted.

#### **Q: When will the USPS, UPS and FedEx start delivery again?**

**A:** The U.S. Postal Service announced it would resume all mail services – delivery, pickup and post-office operations – on Tuesday.

For those in heavily damaged areas, though, residents need to do a little preparation.

- Make sure no debris blocks access to the mailbox.

- If your mailbox is destroyed or badly damaged, replace it with a receptacle that has your address clearly displayed.

- If your residence will be uninhabitable for some time, contact the Postal Service to place mail on temporary hold or file a temporary change of address card.

FedEx officials said they would expand service to "accessible areas," though some customers will experience delays.

UPS had not responded to The Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette's query as of 3:30 p.m.

#### **Q: How can we help?**

**A:** Here is what we know so far:

- **Samaritan's Purse** is looking for people to help remove trees, patch roofs and clean flooded homes along with other physical labor. To help, go by Low-country Community Church at 801 Buckwalter Parkway in Bluffton.

- **Mercy Chefs** is providing meals to emergency personnel and others helping to clean up after Hurricane Matthew. To find out how to help, go to [mercychefs.com](http://mercychefs.com).

If you know of places in need of volunteers, please email us at [newsroom@islandpacket.com](mailto:newsroom@islandpacket.com).

#### **Q: When can MCAS and Laurel Bay return?**

**A:** The evacuation order for MCAS Beaufort and Laurel Bay was terminated at 12:45 p.m. Monday. Personnel and their families are allowed to return to the air station and Laurel Bay housing.

#### **Q: When will Parris Island reopen, and when will personnel return?**

**A:** A news release from Parris Island representatives sent out Monday says all nonessential Department of Defense personnel and their families are now allowed to return to Parris Island.

According to the news release, authorities have assessed the conditions of the island and deemed it safe for return. All personnel should return by Wednesday to resume work.

#### **Q: Will Marines still be graduating on Friday?**

**A:** Yes. According to Parris Island representatives, the naturalization and graduation ceremony for Golf and Oscar companies will continue.

The ceremony has been rescheduled for 1 p.m. Friday at the Peatross Parade Deck.

Guests cannot access the island until 8 a.m. Friday.

#### **Q: Will Beaufort County employees get paid for when offices were closed for Hurricane Matthew?**

**A:** Yes. Josh Gruber, deputy county administrator, said Monday that employees will be paid for the days the county offices were closed due to severe weather.

Gruber said essentially all employees who were scheduled to work and



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were physically ready, willing and able to work but couldn't due to weather will be paid.

Those on worker's compensation will not be paid, according to Gruber.

**Q: When will Beaufort County employees return to work?**

**A:** Unclear.

According to the Beaufort County website, county offices will remain closed at least through

Tuesday.

County employees who are not a part of disaster recovery are instructed to continue monitoring the county's website ([www.bcgov.net](http://www.bcgov.net)), email and other information

channels for updates.

If you have a question or information you think would be important or helpful to share with others, email **newsroom@islandpacket.com**.



REBECCA LURYE [rlurye@islandpacket.com](mailto:rlurye@islandpacket.com)

A pier on Marshland Road on Hilton Head Island was damaged by the storm.

Title: **Beach town hammered; dozens saved in floods**  
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## HURRICANE MATTHEW

# Beach town hammered; dozens saved in floods

Associated Press

**A**bout 150 people were rescued by boats from flooding in the river-side village of Nichols on Monday while across South Carolina the oceanfront hamlet of Edisto Beach began the long work of recovering from what officials called the worst hurricane hit in almost 40 years.

In many other places, things started to return to normal after Hurricane Matthew although hundreds of thousands remained without power and those who headed inland last week were enduring traffic jams to return to the coast.

Matthew dumped 15 inches of rain in Marion County, sending the Lumber River out of its banks and inundating Nichols, which is about 10 miles from the North Carolina state line. About 150 people crowded into the town hall were rescued by boat

by National Guard and Department of Natural Resources officers.

In Edisto Beach, Matthew, which pushed several feet of sand onto the beachfront avenue, destroyed an oceanfront home and clawed away at the foundations of numerous others.

Mayor Jane Darby, who met with reporters at the entrance to Edisto Beach, said teams were surveying the town and there's no early figure on how many homes were damaged or what the damage total might be.

"There's pretty significant damage to quite a few, let me put it that way," the mayor said. Town officials said it appeared to be the worst hurricane damage since Hurricane David in 1979.

There's no power in town, only limited water and residents will be allowed back beginning Tuesday to assess the damage to their homes.

While the town has only about 500 permanent residents, its population can swell to 30,000 on busy summer weekends.

U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., appeared with Darby and town officials.

"I've been throughout the district and I think by far the area that was hardest hit in this storm, at least in this district, is Edisto Beach," Sanford said. His district includes South Carolina's south coast from the Charleston area to Hilton Head Island.

Gov. Nikki Haley on Monday lifted the last of the coastal evacuation orders when she said people could return to Horry and Georgetown counties. Traffic was heavy returning to the coast and, according to a Department of Transportation website, travel between Columbia and Charleston was taking about 30 minutes longer than normal early Monday evening.

Utility workers cut the

number of power outages statewide to about 400,000 by Monday afternoon, less than half of the peak of 850,000 outages at the height of the storm.

A fundraising effort started to help victims of last year's historic floods in South Carolina is being extended to help victims of Hurricane Matthew.

Haley and officials from the Central Carolina Community Foundation say that the One SC Fund is now accepting donations to help hurricane victims.

The fund was started last year in the wake of what's been called a 1,000-year flood in South Carolina.

To date, One SC has distributed \$2 million in grants to nonprofit organizations supporting flood recovery projects. Officials say it has helped 1,500 South Carolina families get back in their homes.

Donations for hurricane victims can be made at [www.onescfund.org](http://www.onescfund.org).



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**THERE'S PRETTY  
SIGNIFICANT  
DAMAGE TO QUITE  
A FEW (HOMES),  
LET ME PUT IT  
THAT WAY.**

*Edisto Beach Mayor  
Jane Darby*



JEFF SINER The Charlotte Observer

A home lies in ruins along Palmetto Boulevard in the town of Edisto Beach. The storm clawed away at the foundations of numerous other homes and pushed several feet of sand onto the beachfront avenue.

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RAINIER EHRHARDT AP

Matthew sent the Lumber River out of its banks, inundating the town of Nichols.

Title: **How bad is the damage across Beaufort County?**  
 Author: BY KELLY MEYERHOFER kmeyerhofer@islandpacket.com  
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## HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# How bad is the damage across Beaufort County?

BY KELLY MEYERHOFER

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**B**eaufort County residents are in the dark. County Administrator Gary Kubic said 54,000 residents were without power as of Monday afternoon.

But some property owners are also in the dark about the extent of the damage Hurricane Matthew did to their properties.

That's in part because recovery crews worked to clear primary roads Monday, so the status of secondary streets isn't even known by folks on the ground.

Here's what Beaufort County officials reported they've been briefed on or seen firsthand:

### HILTON HEAD

Matthew caused an "unprecedented amount of damage on Hilton Head Island," Gov. Nikki Haley said in a news conference Monday. "Trees are down

FROM PAGE 3A

## DAMAGE

seen any homes "completely obliterated" or portions of home debris in streets or yards.

But it's "still way too dangerous" to let people in. He declined to let a

in a way we've never seen before."

During a Monday afternoon news conference, Town Manager Steve Riley warned that some island residents could be without power for five to seven days.

Residents may be allowed to return home Tuesday, "but no promises," he said.

An initial assessment of three-fourths of Hilton Head's commercial properties Sunday revealed roughly 440 undamaged, 54 with some level of damage and two buildings destroyed, Riley said.

Hilton Head Hospital's emergency room opened at noon Monday. No timeline was announced for reopening other hospital services.

Fifteen of the island's 23 traffic signals are operational, according to the town website.

"The south end (of the island) was particularly

hard hit and struggling to recover," Riley said.

Major arteries in Sea Pines are still being cleared, so assessing properties on secondary roads is not an option, said Toby McSwain, director of safety, security, and transportation at Sea Pines.

"I can't even begin to tell you when we'll start (secondary roads)," McSwain said Monday.

Major thoroughfares that are accessible include:

- Greenwood gate to Frasier Circle.
- Frasier to Harbour Town.
- Some portions of the stretch from Greenwood Drive to South Sea Pines Drive.

He reported some homes weathered Matthew well, as did the Plantation Beach Club.

But others weren't so lucky. He said he couldn't estimate how many homes

had trees fallen through or against them.

Lagoons filled with debris are clogged and cannot flow properly, but Sea Pines is "not even close to getting around to address(ing) that."

McSwain did get a chance to see oceanfront properties, he said, and the dunes are completely gone, "completely washed away," he said.

Roughly 50 percent of major roads are accessible in Hilton Head Plantation, said general manager Peter Kristian.

"It's a work in progress," he said Monday. "Literally thousands of trees are down."

At least a dozen homes have trees on or against them, Kristian said, but "I'm sure that's only a small proportion."

One piece of good news, he said, was that he hadn't

SEE DAMAGE, 4A

Title: **How bad is the damage across Beaufort County?**  
 Author: BY KELLY MEYERHOFER kmeyerhofer@islandpacket.com  
 Size: 165.38 column inches  
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As people trickled back into Bluffton and power was slowly restored across some of the town, Mayor Lisa Sulka said at a Monday morning news conference that the barrier islands protected Bluffton from the worst of Matthew's wrath.

"This is a miracle that (we're) back in 48 hours," she said. "It should be a week from now, truly, that (people) should be allowed back in."

No calls from displaced families had come to her as of Monday early evening, she said.

The historic district was one of the hardest hit, Bluffton police Chief Joey Reynolds said at the same conference.

Reynolds also noted "a lot of water damage" at The Farm, Hampton Hall and Hampton Lake.

Trash pick-up and recycling will begin Wednesday.

"The town's in good shape," said Town Manager Marc Orlando. "We're in cleanup mode. I don't

think there's long-term damage."

### **BEAUFORT, PORT ROYAL AND ISLANDS**

Repairs to the Harbor Bridge began Sunday and are still underway, Haley said Monday afternoon.

The storm washed out part of the causeway, preventing access to Fripp, Harbor and Hunting islands.

County Administrator Kubic reported a number of power restoration and debris removal crews on the ground on St. Helena Island.

"They were hit very, very hard with tree damage," he said. "The city of Beaufort is in pretty good shape."

In Beaufort, streets are no longer blocked off, Mayor Billy Keyserling said.

He said he knew of two homes damaged by trees within the city limits: one on Hermitage Road, the other on Mossy Oaks Road.

Power outages are prevalent north of the Broad

River. Keyserling is among those without power.

Congestion on the highways Sunday prevented additional utility crews from providing relief. Stuck in long lines of traffic, the crew spent the night in their trucks, Keyserling said.

In the town of Port Royal, Town Manager Van Willis identified these streets as some with the largest issues:

- Lenora Drive: Trees completely mangle power lines.
- 11th Street: Significant trees down.
- Old Shell Road: Completely inaccessible.
- The Sands Road: Storm surge undermined foundation.

More than 60 Beaufort Memorial Hospital patients who were transferred to facilities throughout the state returned Monday evening.

In a news release, the hospital also announced the following practices and clinics will reopen Tuesday:

- Beaufort Primary Care, Beaufort Medical Plaza.
- Harrison Peeples Health Care Center.
- Orthopedic Specialists, 1251 Ribaut Road, Dr. Kevin Jones.
- Laboratory, Beaufort Memorial Hospital and Beaufort Medical Plaza.
- Rehabilitation Services for adult orthopedics, 1251 Ribaut Road.
- Pediatric rehabilitation services, Beaufort Medical Plaza and Bluffton Medical Services at 7 Arley Way.
- Wound Care Center at Beaufort Medical Plaza.
- Imaging services, Beaufort Memorial Hospital and Beaufort Medical Plaza.

Patients scheduled for an outpatient service on Monday will be contacted by a hospital representative to reschedule. Remaining services and clinics are expected to reopen Wednesday.

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A portion of Clarendon Road is washed out near where power crews are working to restore electricity. Beaufort County was hit hard by the storm.



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JAY KARR jkarr@islandpacket.com

A falling pine tree sliced through this home during Hurricane Matthew, which caused an “unprecedented amount of damage on Hilton Head Island,” Gov. Nikki Haley said in a news conference Monday. “Trees are down in a way we’ve never seen before.”



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Alan Johnson and his dad, Red, carry out items from a storeroom Monday where nearly 3 feet of storm surge drenched most of the items stored there. The home is in Tansi Village on Fig Island.

Title: **Days after hurricane, thousands in Beaufort County still without power**  
 Author: BY LUCASHIGH lhigh@islandpacket.com  
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# Days after hurricane, thousands in Beaufort County still without power

BY LUCAS HIGH

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While water service has been restored to most of Beaufort County, tens of thousands of locals are still without power as Hurricane Matthew clean-up continues.

About 54,000 residents were still in the dark as of Monday afternoon, said Beaufort County administrator Gary Kubic. That's down from the roughly 73,000 locals who were without power through Sunday night, according to a Beaufort County news release.

"There are 501 electrical linemen within Beaufort County working to restore power and an additional 250 who are

expected to arrive today," the Monday morning release said.

- On Hilton Head Island, Palmetto Electric Cooperative president Berl

Davis said there are a few areas with power, but most of the island is still in the dark. It is possible that more residents may see their power restored as early as Tuesday. But, he said, "optimistically, we are looking at tomorrow afternoon or tomorrow night" for the majority of customers' power to be restored.

- In Bluffton, power is back in many neighborhoods. "Most of folks ... are restored," Davis said.

- The rest of the county

is a mixed bag. Beaufort County Sheriff P.J. Tanner said Monday afternoon that local leaders are "still waiting on a report (of the extent of outages in) northern Beaufort County." Beaufort Mayor Billy Keyserling added that outages are still prevalent north of the Broad River. He is among those without power. Congestion on the highways Sunday prevented additional utility crews from providing relief. Stuck in long lines of traffic, the crews spent Sunday night in their trucks, Keyserling said.

"Beaufort County was one of the hardest hit" areas in the state and restoring power to locals

"presents a unique challenge," said SCE&G

spokesman Eric Boomerhower.

He said the company spent much of Sunday performing damage assessment, and the focus is now shifting toward restoration.

While Boomerhower could not say specifically where the manpower in Beaufort County will be focused, he did say, "We've got crews all over the place."

Davis said the company had 200 employees working in crews Monday to restore power to about 25,000 Beaufort County

**SEE POWER, 4A**

**FROM PAGE 3A**

## POWER

customers. Typically only about 50 people are out working on power lines on a given day.

Palmetto Electric spokeswoman Missy Santorum said, "We are trying to be very timely, and we appreciate (customers') patience and understanding."

Gov. Nikki Haley said Monday afternoon that personnel with state agencies such as the S.C. Department of Transportation have shifted into "support mode for our counties" to help clear debris in advance of power

er crews.

"Cool and dry weather" in the coming days will assist recovery efforts, including power restoration, she said.

Along with the widespread power outages, Hilton Head Island has experienced some of the worst lingering water-related issues in the county.

Because the island, which is still not open to evacuees or visitors, is mostly without power, the sewer system is also down, Hilton Head Public

Service District general manager Pete Nardi said.

This means island residents who stayed in their homes must not flush toilets, he said.

On the bright side, "we have about 90 percent of the water system up and we are not aware of any contamination at this point," Nardi said.

When residents return and begin using water in their homes, customers will be advised to boil water used for drinking, cooking and washing dishes for the

short term, he said.

Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority is asking residents to restrict water use to essential needs until power is restored throughout the two counties.

"Even though power has been restored to the BJWSA water treatment plants, the booster pump stations needed to distribute the water to all parts of our service area are without power and are being operated on generators," the utility said in a news release Sunday.

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Power crews work to  
restore electricity on  
Clarendon Road near  
Seabrook.

Title: **Many residents of Sea Pines can't go home**  
 Author: BY ERIN HEFFERNAN eheffernan@islandpacket.com  
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**HILTON HEAD ISLAND**

# Many residents of Sea Pines can't go home

BY ERIN HEFFERNAN

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Even if Hilton Head Island is opened to evacuees on Tuesday, many Sea Pines residents will still not be allowed to go to their houses, according to Community Services Associates President Bret Martin.

CSA, the company that manages the private community, will bar residents who live in sections that are still obstructed by trees from entering the neighborhood, Martin said. Those homes are mostly located in the southern end of the community.

Allowing their homeowners back may obstruct recovery crews, Martin explained Monday afternoon.

Hilton Head Mayor David Bennett announced Sunday that he hopes the island would be open for re-entry Tuesday.

Still Sea Pines security and CSA are strongly discouraging all Sea Pines residents from returning that soon because of the status of the neighborhood.

As of Monday afternoon:

- There is still no electricity or sewer service, and the water is not potable. There is a boil-water advisory in effect.

- Recovery crews have been unable to access whole sections of the neighborhood that are obstructed by trees, although the major roadways and both entrances have been cleared.

- Large trees are still falling in the aftermath of the storm throughout the neighborhood.

- Not all emergency services would be able to access obstructed parts of the community.

"We're trying to get Sea Pines cleaned up so that people can get back in safely, securely and with services available when they come here," Martin said. "We would love the property owners to get back as soon as possible, but we want them to be safe at the same time."

Because Sea Pines' roads are privately owned, CSA can prevent residents from returning, said Bob Bromage, spokesman for the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office.

Still, many residents are upset that they are unable to see the damage to their homes and are anxious to return now more than four days after Gov. Nikki Haley called them to evacuate.

"We just want to know if our house is okay," Sea Pines homeowner Heather Martin Guy said. "Even if we have to climb through downed trees to get there. Even if we can't stay there. We just want to see it, salvage what we can, begin recovery, and help our neighbors do the same."

Other residents plan to wait to attempt to come home.

"My husband and I are full-time residents of Sea Pines and anxious to see if there is any damage to our home but will not return until utilities have been restored," said Jani Stephenson. "We are very grateful for all the hard work of the first responders and want to stay clear for clean-up to continue."

Martin did not have an estimate Monday afternoon for when neighborhood problems would be resolved.

CSA crews, private contractors and crews from Hilton Head Fire & Rescue and the South Island Public Service District are helping clear the neighborhood to restore access and services.

CSA is also seeking access to emergency funding from the Town of Hilton Head to help with recovery.

Sea Pines security officials said burglaries have been reported, though they have so far been limited to the areas that were accessible before security teams returned to the island. The only area they have seen that has been burglarized so far is the Sea Pines Center area, said Sea Pines director of security Toby McSwain.

Security will inform residents and business owners if they believe their property has been burglarized.

McSwain said residents should also prepare for the possibility of wildlife encounters when they return as some alligators and deer have been seen near homes.

**YOU MIGHT ALSO BE**

Page: 1



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**INTERESTED IN THIS  
VIDEO**

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DREW MARTIN Staff video

Standing water pools in the area of Heritage Farm, where Sea Pines residents have garden plots, in the wake of Hurricane Matthew on Sunday.