

Title: **SC flood fund to help victims of Hurricane Matthew**
Author:
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SC flood fund to help victims of Hurricane Matthew

A disaster relief fund set up to help victims of last October's historic flooding will be expanded to help South Carolinians affected by Hurricane Matthew.

Gov. Nikki Haley and the Central Carolina Community Foundation on Sunday announced the plan to increase fundraising for the One SC Fund.

The fund has given out \$2 million in grants to nonprofits for flood recovery efforts and has helped more than 1,500 families, according to a news release.

Citing South Carolinians' generosity in helping flood victims, Haley said the state now faces a new challenge in the hurricane's aftermath and thanked donors for their support.

Visit www.onescfund.org to make an online donation using your credit card.

Or mail a check to the Central Carolina Community Foundation, One SC Fund, 2711 Middleburg Drive, Suite 213, Columbia, SC 29204.

— JAMIE SELF

Title: **Flooding remains a threat in Horry**
 Author: Staff and wire reports
 Size: 46.81 column inches
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Flooding remains a threat in Horry

Staff and wire reports

HORRY COUNTY

The danger is not over on the Grand Strand.

The Waccamaw River is expected to reach record flooding levels. The National Weather Service said Sunday the Waccamaw could crest at 17 feet this week, "about three-quarters of a foot above" last year's flood.

Horry and Georgetown counties on the Grand Strand were two of the four S.C. counties that remained subject to evacuation orders Sunday.

Meanwhile, Myrtle Beach has lost one of its landmarks. Hurricane Matthew destroyed the Springmaid Pier, leaving only 100 feet standing of the 1,060-foot-long structure, the longest pier on the Grand Strand.

The pier is owned by Doubletree by Hilton, and it will be up to the company to make repairs or dismantle the remains, a city spokesman said.

The Springmaid Pier opened in 1953. It has been rebuilt twice in the last 62 years, after crumbling under Hurricane Hazel's 130-plus mph winds and after a plane crashed into it.

3 DEATHS IN SC

Three people have died in South Carolina from Hurricane Matthew - including a Richland County man who was pinned after falling from his electric wheelchair into a puddle of standing water, and two men whose vehicles were

swept off flooded Florence County roads, authorities said.

Gov. Nikki Haley couldn't guarantee those would be the only deaths. Search and rescue teams were still checking remote areas and waiting for flood waters to recede.

METRO CHARLESTON: EVACUEES CAN RETURN

Charleston, Berkeley, Colleton and Dorchester counties were opened to returning evacuees Sunday morning. Beaufort and Jasper county evacuations were lifted Sunday at 6:30 p.m.

However, in her Sunday news conference, Gov. Nikki Haley advised those returning to show "patience, patience, patience. That's the only way we're going to get through this thing."

CIVIL WAR ERA CANNONBALLS UNCOVERED

A Charleston County Sheriff's Office bomb squad was called to Folly Beach on Sunday after Civil War-era cannonballs were found on shore, washed up by the hurricane, Maj. Eric Watson said.

The squad had to wait for the tide to go back out before they could make sure the cannonballs were safe, Watson said.

EDISTO: EVACUATION CONTINUES

SEE STATE, 7A

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FROM PAGE 3A

STATE

Edisto Beach was continuing its evacuation order Sunday due to storm damage. The Edisto Police Department reported there was no electricity or water, and roads were impassable.

"Due to the damage we suffered and the hazards that still exist, we are continuing the evacuation for the beach at this time. We hope to expedite your return but please bear with us for a while longer," the department said on Facebook.

LOWCOUNTRY: SOME RESIDENTS RETURNING

Evacuations finally were lifted Sunday night for **Beaufort** and **Jasper** counties in the Lowcountry.

Residents who evacuated **Hunting, Harbor, Fripp Island** and other Lowcountry barrier islands north of the Broad River were using social media to send questions about their homes to neighbors

who stayed behind and weathered Hurricane Matthew.

Residents of Harbor Island started a Facebook group specifically for information about the island post-hurricane. Pictures posted include flooded buildings, blocked roads and standing water.

Kate Hines of the Fripp Island Property Owners Association said she and others who relocated to Aiken have been receiving word and pictures from residents and safety officials about the conditions.

"(T)he pictures that people are sending to us show that it could have been just so, so, so much more worse than it is," she said. "We feel very lucky."

Staff reports; also, the Sun News of Myrtle Beach, Island Packet of Hilton Head, The Associated Press, Post and Courier of Charleston

Title: **Most schools, USC reopen Monday in the Midlands**
Author:
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Most schools, USC reopen Monday in the Midlands

Students in most Midlands public schools will be returning to classes Monday.

All Lexington County public school districts, as well as Richland 2, are reopening on time Monday, according to the districts.

In Richland 1, Webber Elementary in Lower Richland will remain closed, while all other Richland 1 schools will open on a two-hour delayed start. That means buses will pick up students two hours later than the normal pickup times, and classes will begin two hours later than normal.

Webber Elementary, in Eastover, was still without power Sunday, according to a Richland 1 news release, and power was not expected to be restored by Monday morning.

Kershaw County schools will be closed Monday, primarily because of power outages, a district spokeswoman said. All after-school events and activities are canceled at all schools, but administrators and other 12-month employees will report to work at 10 a.m. Monday. Maintenance staff will report to work on time.

Public schools in Richland and Lexington counties were ordered by Gov. Nikki Haley to close Oct. 5-7, as Hurricane Matthew approached the state. Some schools were used to shelter evacuees.

Also Monday, students at the University of South Carolina will resume classes.

— STAFF REPORTS

Title: **Game day change, storm cleanup mean fewer spectators, tailgaters**
 Author: BY JEFF WILKINSON jwilkinson@thestate.com
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Game day change, storm cleanup mean fewer spectators, tailgaters

BY JEFF WILKINSON
jwilkinson@thestate.com

Byron Bowers of Fort Mill for years has gone to every University of South Carolina home game. Normally, he said, he waits for at least an hour in traffic before parking.

But Sunday, Bowers drove straight to his spot near Williams-Brice Stadium, barely slowing down.

"Traffic was nonexistent," said Bowers, who was trying to sell two extra tickets. "These are \$80 tickets. They're going for \$30 or \$40."

The annual showdown between the Gamecocks and rival Georgia Bulldogs is usually a raucous affair. But rescheduling the game to Sunday from Saturday, combined with destruction along the Georgia and South Carolina coasts, put a damper on Sunday's crowd.

On most Saturdays there are 80,000-plus fans inside the stadium and thousands more who remain outside tailgating.

Williams-Brice, which normally would have fans hanging off the scoreboard for a USC-Georgia game, wasn't nearly full. There were several pockets of empty



DWAYNE MCLEMORE dmclemore@thestate.com

Kershaw County deputies were among those assisting with gameday traffic and security Sunday at Williams-Brice Stadium.

bleachers in the upper decks and the student section in the north end zone was nearly bare in the upper corners.

USC had 70,018 in Williams-Brice two days after Hurricane Hugo in 1989. Official attendance was announced as 77,221 for the 80,250-seat stadium.

"The crowd's a little bit lighter," said Bryan Spencer, who, along with his wife, Stephany, have been tailgating in their "Cockaboat" – a small cabin cruiser they pull in for games – for 18 years. (They even have a Facebook page called The Cockaboat.)

"Let's hope it's the hurricane," he said. "Not the re-

cord."

In the State Fairgrounds across the street from the stadium, a popular parking and tailgating destination, there were large gaps of empty spaces.

James Craft of Aiken had plenty of room to spread out in the six or so spaces that were empty around his normal spot.

"The folks that are usually here live in Dillon," he said. "I don't know if they had trouble (with the hurricane) or it's just too far a drive for a Sunday."

While Gov. Nikki Haley kept state troopers on hurricane duty and away from

their usual game day traffic duties, travel around the stadium seemed to go smoothly.

Deputies from Richland, Lexington, Kershaw, Calhoun and Newberry counties filled in on traffic and security, augmenting the Columbia Police Department.

"We're not having any issues at all," Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said.

Many Georgia fans didn't make the trip because of uncertainty about game day and time prior to the storm. There were lots of room cancellations that were quickly snapped up by evacuees.

John Douglas, a Bulldog fan from Covington, Ga., said he's come to Columbia for the game each time the two teams have played.

Usually Interstate 20 is full of cars with Georgia flags and stickers, he said, but added, "I didn't see a single one today."

Two Georgia fans who did make the trip, Andy Haygood of Jonesboro, Ga., and his son, David, said they thought moving the game was the right thing to do because of Saturday's storms.

"But we knew there would be some no-shows," he said. "The people down on the coast have other things to worry about besides a football game."

Staff writer David Cloninger contributed.

Title: **For Daufuskie Island residents (and horses), the risk pays off**
 Author: BY WADE LIVINGSTON The Island Packet
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For Daufuskie Island residents (and horses), the risk pays off

BY WADE LIVINGSTON

The Island Packet

They're calling themselves the "Daufuskie 100" – the residents of Daufuskie Island who chose to stay behind and successfully weathered Hurricane Matthew.

Erica Marie Veit is one of them. She and some of the other island residents gathered at the Sportsman's Lodge at Melrose Resort on the small sea island where, according to Veit, they were on 16 acres of land – cleared land, no trees – about 22 feet above sea level.

They made it. And so did their comrades on other parts of the island.

Gov. Nikki Haley, who pleaded with the island's 400 residents to evacuate ahead of the storm, confirmed the news at a Sunday news conference.

"We're very pleased and relieved to say that everyone's been accounted for and there's no injuries," Veit said Sunday morning. "Even in the cleanup efforts yesterday, everyone was safe and no

injuries were reported."

Veit, executive director of the Daufuskie Marsh Tacky Society, was worried about her Marsh Tacky horses. The breed is native to South Carolina's barrier islands and is the state heritage horse.

There are about 20 of the animals on the island, she said, split up among a few owners.

The horses, too, survived unscathed.

Daufuskie itself didn't fare as well.

The storm hit from the north, Veit said, so the north end of the island was most damaged.

Melrose Landing and the Haig Point community dock were both destroyed, she said, adding the Haig Point ferry survived as did Freeport Marina.

Most residents lost their boats, Veit said, and river- and ocean-oriented homes at Haig Point had 4 to 5 feet of water underneath them.

Many parts of the island

still have 1 to 2 feet of standing water from the storm surge, Veit said, but the water appears to be receding.

"It's definitely devastating here. The island will never be the same," Veit said.

She said fuel and generators were needed so residents could continue cleanup efforts.

The U.S. Coast Guard is continuing to survey the area that includes Daufuskie, according to spokesperson Lt. James Zorn.

"I know that area got hit pretty hard down there by Hilton Head," he said, "and a lot of those marinas down there had extensive damage."

Zorn confirmed that the ferries themselves did not sustain significant damage, but he did not know whether they had resumed operation.

The damage assessment is ongoing, he said, but the area Daufuskie is in was "hit harder than a lot of other areas in South Carolina."

Veit said cellphone service was spotty on the island. Residents have been venturing down to Freeport to make calls.

Veit stood there Sunday morning looking at a boat that had washed up onto the concrete pier. That boat had previously been on a boat lift, she said, illustrating the storm surge the island experienced.

Thursday, as Matthew was still making its approach, 40 to 50 Daufuskie residents met in front of the General Store near Marshside Mamma's, Veit said. They discussed their plans and concerns.

"And I think that contributed to the success of everyone weathering the storm," she said, adding that residents' concerns were unique to the island.

"At the time we were taking very calculated risks," she said. "And I wouldn't personally recommend that most people stay. ... Mandatory evacuation was warranted."

“

IT'S DEFINITELY DEVASTATING HERE. THE ISLAND WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.

Erica Marie Veit, executive director of the Daufuskie Marsh Tacky Society

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Daufuskie Marsh Tacky Society

Hurricane damage on Daufuskie Island, where floodwater was reported receding on Sunday.

Title: **Now, the recovery**
 Author: BY TIM FLACH tflach@thestate.com
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HURRICANE MATTHEW

Now, the recovery

3 dead in SC as parts of state's 187-mile coast are open for residents to go home

BY TIM FLACH

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Some South Carolina coastal residents were still barred from heading home Sunday while some others who did return found areas ravaged by Hurricane Matthew, with warnings to expect delays on roads with fallen trees and downed power lines that could take days to repair.

Three storm-related deaths had been reported so far – two in Florence County, where cars were swept away or submerged in floodwaters, and one in Richland County, according to local officials. As

FROM PAGE 1A

RECOVER

day. A decision on allowing a return to the Grand Strand isn't likely until Monday at the earliest.

"Patience, patience, patience, that's the only way we're going to get through this thing," Gov. Nikki Haley said at a briefing Sunday.

Power outages are still a challenge in many areas, officials said.

Slightly more than 200,000 homes and businesses had been reconnected by late Sunday, leaving about 648,000 without power, officials said. In the Midlands, slightly more than 6,300 people were still without power in Richland County and just over 1,250 in Lexington

County late Sunday. workers move in to remote areas largely cut off after the storm, some say that number could rise.

State officials urged forbearance in giving the green light to return to the Charleston and parts of the Lowcountry, but keeping residents in two other counties away for another

SEE RECOVER, 7A

➔ MORE INSIDE

- Smaller but spirited crowd turns out for USC-Georgia game, **3A**
- How did Daufuskie

Island's residents and horses fare? **3A**

- Rescue and worries as floodwaters inundate N.C., **4A**
- For some evacuees, shelter journey continues, **7A**

➔ ONLINE

AT THESTATE.COM: See videos from affected areas, plus a photo gallery of damage along SC coast.

600,000

Homes and businesses

without power as of 9:20 p.m. Sunday

373

Roads closed to traffic as of 6 p.m. Sunday

355,000

Estimated evacuees before the storm from SC coast

6 COUNTIES

Counties – Charleston, Dorchester, Berkeley, Beaufort, Jasper and Colleton – where those displaced could return Sunday

County late Sunday.

All interstates statewide are open but not all major roads are. By late Sunday, 373 roads – five in Richland and Lexington counties – and 38 bridges remained closed to motorists, state transportation officials said. Half the total was in the Lowcountry as officials continue an assessment of damage on the coast.

BACK TO NORMAL

Across the Midlands, life began returning to usual Sunday even as fallen trees and power lines kept some roads closed to traffic.

Classes resume Monday at the main campus of the University

of South Carolina and in most public schools in Richland and Lexington counties as power

was restored to more neighborhoods. Kershaw County schools, along with Webber Elementary in Richland 1, will be closed Monday, while the rest of Richland 1 schools will operate on a two-hour delay.

Richland County and Lexington County government offices, as well as state government offices in those counties are among those reopening Monday.

Sections of 14 streets in Columbia were closed to traffic as of Sunday afternoon, officials said.

Many residents ventured out

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to clear tree limbs and other storm debris from their yards, while crews in places like Lower Richland worked to remove larger trees and debris in the hard-hit area.

"When it fell, the house shook," Michael Veal, 67, said Sunday of the tree sitting in the front yard of his home in the 1900 block of Lower Richland Boulevard.

Columbia received 2.29 inches of rain Saturday, although some parts of the areas got less and others slightly more, the National Weather Service said.

Meanwhile, fans were treated to good weather – expected to continue all week – to watch the USC-Georgia game, postponed a day by the storm. "There's not much change," John Stackhouse of Columbia said of the game-day atmosphere, "but this one has a different feel to it."

CHALLENGES AHEAD

During the storm, state emergency officials undertook five high-water rescues in the Fripp Island area and one medical transport while answering nearly 3,000 calls for service, with more than 1,100 of them vehicle-related, Haley said during her briefing.

The impact of the hurricane will be felt later this week as well as two rivers rise with storm runoff.

The Waccamaw River is expected to be around 17 feet by the end of the week from rough-

ly 14 feet Sunday morning, and the Little Pee Dee River at Gallivants Ferry is expected to hit an estimated 13.1 feet by the end of the week from 11 feet early Sunday, officials said.

Evacuations were lifted Sunday morning in Berkeley, Colleton, Charleston and Dorchester counties, and later in the day in Beaufort and Jasper counties. But damage assessments continue in Georgetown and Horry counties.

Edisto Beach police said evacuation in the coastal community continues due to storm damage, causing some residents who rode out the hurricane at home to leave now. There is no electricity or water, and roads are impassable, town police said on social media.

Some areas of the Lowcountry were hard-hit, Haley said.

Conditions in Beaufort County are improving but still have debris, flooding and drainage problems, she said. Beaufort Memorial Hospital suffered flooding and structural damage. Several communities in Hilton Head Island and some barrier islands also suffered damage.

Storm-flattened beaches in Myrtle Beach area were littered with debris, as strong wind gusts from the tail end of the storm lingered into Sunday morning.

In the Pee Dee, flooding, washed-out roads and a lack of power slowed some efforts to survey storm damage. More than 10 inches of rain fell in

parts of Florence County. "I talked to first responders, and a lot of them are saying this was worse than (Hurricane) Hugo," Florence County Emergency Management spokesman Andrew Golden said.

Among fatalities, a resident of a Richland County skilled nursing center died from what Coroner Gary Watts said is a hurricane-related drowning. David Outlaw, 66, drowned in a rain puddle outside his residence at National Health Care in the 7600 block of Parklane Road in Northeast Richland, Watts said.

Outlaw was found face down pinned beneath a wheelchair shortly before 8 a.m. Saturday, Watts said.

In Florence County, two people died in flood waters Saturday, according to Coroner Keith von Lutcken. The body of a man was recovered from his vehicle that had been swept downstream, while a dive team recovered the body of a second man found in his submerged car at a bridge washout, according to law enforcement officials. Their identities had not been released early Sunday night.

The storm killed more than 500 people in Haiti and at least 17 in the United States, nearly half of them in North Carolina, according to reports.

— CONTRIBUTING: STAFF WRITERS GLEN LUKE FLANAGAN, SAMMY FRETWELL, JAMIE SELF AND JEFF WILKINSON; THE ASSOCIATED PRESS; THE ISLAND PACKET; THE MORNING NEWS.

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Provided photo

Bethea Road in Darlington County is seen Sunday after it was washed out from the flooding as Hurricane Matthew hit South Carolina Saturday.

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GERRY MELENDEZ gmelendez@thestate.com

Garden City resident Kathy Potts holds her dog Daisy after seeing her flooded condo for the first time Sunday. The area was hit hard by Hurricane Matthew. Potts said she was only hoping her family photos were safe and dry. They were.

Title: **Why Gov. Haley can, should fire Richland Recreation board members**

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CINDI ROSS SCOPPE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Why Gov. Haley can, should fire Richland Recreation board members

IF THEY WERE *state* recreation commissioners, Gov. Nikki Haley would have already removed the five local commissioners who are whistling while the Richland County Recreation Commission burns.

Fortunately, we don't have state recreation commissioners, but that's not the point. The point is that 1) it's the governor, not local legislators, who technically appoints the Richland commissioners and 2) state law allows her to remove nearly all of her *state* appointees for any reason she sees fit.

Unfortunately, state law treats her local appointees differently. It says that in order to remove county officials, the governor must find that they are "guilty of malfeasance, misfeasance, incompetency, absenteeism, conflicts of interest, misconduct, persistent neglect of duty in office, or incapacity."

It seems clear that Recreation Chairwoman Marie Green and Commissioners Barbara Mickens, Weston Furgess, George Martin and Joseph Weeks meet that standard — at the very least in terms of "misfeasance," which can mean as little as being careless in the way you perform your duties in office.

They are, after all, the people

who refused to fire or even suspend Director James Brown III, who is under federal, state and local criminal investigations over allegations of bribery, who is alleged to have engaged in sexual harassment and belittled and threatened employees and who gave huge raises to his many relatives on staff.

They are the people who allowed the agency to exceed its \$15,000 legal services budget for 2015-16 by \$75,000; Ms. Green somehow failed to include that information in a response to legislators' inquiries.

They are the people who spent tax money for an investigation into the allegations against Mr. Brown, received the report behind closed doors, came back into public and voted to "support" Mr. Brown, and for the six months since have refused to let anyone — even state legislators — see that report.

Ten of the 17 legislators who nominate commissioners for the governor to appoint have called on the five commissioners to resign. They cite the commissioners' "approval of irresponsible compensation" and "lack of effective oversight" of Mr. Brown and ignoring "the hostile work environment," "blatant abuses of nepotism" and "ex-

cessive litigation and costs."

It's no accident that legislators have been using the term "malfeasance" to describe the commissioners' action — and inaction. Richland County Democratic Reps. Beth Bernstein and James Smith and Sen. Joel Lourie are putting together a legal case they plan to present to Gov. Haley, asking her to remove the commissioners, although but they've detected some concerns about litigation.

Little wonder. Once, when the Legislature passed a law to turn control of the commission over to the County Council, which funds the agency, members of the commission sued, and unfortunately won. Beyond that, state law specifically gives county officials the right to appeal their removal in court, and at that point things can get messy.

We saw that when then-Gov. David Beasley used an identical law to remove Boykin Rose as director of the Department of Public Safety, one of a handful of state officials the governor can't fire without cause. The state Supreme Court eventually upheld the firing, but only after Mr. Beasley spent a year defending it.

And so the recreation commissioners remain commission-

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ers, even though they have performed no oversight and, to the contrary, seem to view their jobs as protecting Mr. Brown. And so Mr. Brown remains the director who claims to be on voluntary (voluntary!) paid leave (paid!) but who, according to the independent journalism website Quorum, is calling in every day to make sure things are being run to his liking.

The governor ought to put an end to this abuse of taxpayer funds and public trust, by removing the commissioners.

And the Legislature ought to change the law, to prevent such travesties in the future.

Ideally, lawmakers would

abolish all single-county special purpose districts, including the Richland County Recreation Commission, or else turn them over to the county councils. But the Legislature has no interest in doing this, since so many legislators believe that they control those districts — despite clear evidence in this case that they really don't. And it's not clear that the current Supreme Court would be willing to overrule its Richland County Recreation Commission precedent and allow lawmakers to pass a law that abolishes only that one commission.

So at the least, let's give the governor the same authority to remove her local appointees as

she has to remove her state appointees.

If a governor can fire the full-time director of the state parks department simply because she wants to — that is, if she can take away his job and his income and his health insurance and injure his reputation without having to prove "cause" and subject herself to lawsuits — then surely she ought to be able to do the same to the citizens who volunteer to serve as part-time, unpaid members of a local parks commission.

Ms. Scoppe can be reached at cscoppe@thestate.com or at (803) 771-8571.

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THEY HAVE PERFORMED NO OVERSIGHT AND, TO THE CONTRARY, SEEM TO VIEW THEIR JOBS AS PROTECTING MR. BROWN.



Title: **Storm leaves a mess, but no known deaths**
 Author: BYAVERY G. WILKS awilks@thestate.com
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HURRICANE MATTHEW HITS SOUTH CAROLINA

Storm leaves a mess, but no known deaths

Downed trees, power lines, flooded streets left behind as hurricane visits South Carolina

BY AVERY G. WILKS

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Hurricane Matthew grazed the S.C. coast Saturday, flooding streets, felling trees and power lines and leaving hundreds of thousands of South Carolinians without

power.

But the storm's death toll, if any, in South Carolina remained unknown late Saturday because authorities still did not have access to inundated areas on the coast.

The state had received no

reports of storm-related deaths as of 6 p.m. Saturday, though Matthew already had claimed at least 13 lives in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina and hundreds more in Haiti.

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley said it

could take until Sunday evening for state officials to have an accurate assessment of Matthew's damage. But, the Republican governor said, the

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MATTHEW

state could lift evacuation orders for many parts of the storm-riddled state on Sunday.

"We're very happy right now that we can say that, so far, we're hoping everybody is still safe," Haley said.

The storm knocked down 124 trees in Columbia, wrecked piers in Myrtle Beach, left half of downtown Charleston with standing water and cut off some areas of the state entirely.

MAKING LANDFALL

Matthew weakened from its Category 4 status as it churned northeast from Florida and Georgia early Saturday.

It swept past Beaufort County just after high tide and before dawn Saturday, then continued to skirt the S.C. coast, eventually making landfall at 11 a.m. as a Category 1 hurricane just southeast of McClellanville, a fishing village between Charleston and Myrtle Beach.

With it came strong winds – as fast as 88 mph at Hilton Head County: Richland

and 74 mph in Myrtle Beach – and more than a foot of rain in some parts of the state.

Matthew dumped 10 to 15 inches of rain along the S.C. coast and 5 to 9 inches in parts of the greater Midlands, according to John Quagliarello, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

That combination uprooted trees and downed power lines across the eastern half of the Palmetto State.

More than 866,175 S.C. utilities customers were without power at 8:21 p.m. Saturday, a number that grew both steadily and rapidly throughout the day.

By comparison, the Category 4 Hurricane Hugo in 1989 left 500,000 homes and businesses without power. And 350,000 customers lost power during the 2014 ice storm.

The majority of Saturday's outages were in Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester and Horry counties, areas Haley this week begged residents to

evacuate.

"All of the utilities and the co-ops are doing everything they can to get into the areas, when they're told it's safe, to try and get everybody back restored," Haley said during a 6 p.m. briefing.

More than 300 S.C. roads and 10 bridges were closed by fallen trees or downed power lines as of 4 p.m. Saturday, according to the S.C. Department of Transportation. Thirty-four Columbia roads remained closed at sundown Saturday.

Two sections of Interstate 95 – a 15-mile stretch in Dillon County and the southbound lanes near Ridgeland – were shut off by flooding.

Road damage is particularly heavy in Jasper, Beaufort, Colleton and Allendale counties, Haley said.

About 100 Charleston city roadways were closed by flooding on Saturday morning.

The state's barrier islands were inaccessible, Transporta-

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tion Chief Christy Hall said.

"What we have seen is lots of trees down, lots of power lines down, a lot of roads that are not passable," Haley said. "We're not seeing a lot of structural damage."

Local leaders, law enforcement and road workers will decide when it is safe for coastal residents to return home. Road workers and National Guardsmen are working to clear roads of trees and other debris, Hall said.

STAYING SAFE

The state has 6,500 residents in 77 shelters, and hundreds of thousands more left their homes ahead of the storm at Haley's request.

State Law Enforcement Division chief Mark Keel said 761 state law enforcement officers and 278 National Guardsmen are patrolling evacuated and powerless areas and helping the DOT clear roads.

Local governments in Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Jasper and Williamsburg counties set curfews to keep residents off roads at night.

County and school leaders will decide when schools should re-open, Haley said.

The storm was not without victims.

It obliterated the popular Springmaid pier in Myrtle Beach, formerly the Grand Strand's longest at 1,060 feet.

It damaged signage at the University of South Carolina's Williams-Brice Stadium and knocked out traffic lights for most of the day at several busy intersections in downtown Columbia.

In Charleston, the storm led S.C. transportation officials to briefly close the prominent Arthur Ravenel Jr. cable-stay bridge, opened in 2005, for an engineering inspection. Officials re-opened the bridge Saturday night.

"The design of the Ravenel Bridge allows for some movement of the bridge elements, but Hurricane Matthew is the bridge's first exposure to significant storm force winds," the agency said in a statement.

Some coastal residents braved the storm despite repeated warnings. Jim Varcadipane stayed behind to protect his Garden City liquor store.

"If a window breaks in my store, this is one of the first places people will hit," he said. "I have two pistols and two shotguns. This place is all I have."

Those who stayed were astonished at the strong gusts whipped in by Matthew.

Winds in Myrtle Beach blew signs down and sent roof shingles flying. Ocean Boulevard was littered with debris and limbs on the south side of the resort city.

Scores of trees also blocked roads, including parts of U.S. 17 south of Myrtle Beach. Three power lines sagged over the Surfside Beach town hall as poles leaned precariously from high winds.

Near Litchfield Beach, a fallen tree blocked all southbound traffic at about 6:30 pm. Another tree blocked part of the highway near Myrtle Beach State Park.

"What caught most people by surprise was how strong the winds were on the backside of

the storm after the eye passed over," said Chief Norman Knight of the Garden City-Murrells Inlet Fire District, noting numerous rescue calls were wind-related.

Brandi Kiser, 22, was astonished for a different reason.

Stopped on I-26 just east of Orangeburg by a toppled pine tree, she watched a burgundy SUV pull up and try to navigate around the tree - which extended into the median so much that getting around it was impossible.

The SUV's driver got out. "She's in labor," he said out loud. He called for an ambulance, said Kiser, a licensed funeral director and embalmer from St. George in Dorchester County.

"I heard the dad say, 'The contractions are one minute apart.'"

Kiser could see paramedics helping the woman and then one provide her a small blanket, the woman cradling something.

"I'm 95 percent sure she gave birth," Kiser said of her vantage point inside her car.

The ambulance rushed off to Orangeburg's Regional Medical Center. Kiser, who knows the area well, guided the new father and his SUV on the 10-minute trip to the hospital using alternate routes.

"It was probably a once-in-a-lifetime thing," Kiser said Saturday afternoon. "I didn't really do anything."

State writers Sammy Fretwell, Cynthia Roldan, Clif LeBlanc and Cassie Cope contributed to this story. Avery G. Wilks: 803-771-8362, @averygwilks

Title: **Storm leaves a mess, but no known deaths**
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Size: 191.42 column inches
Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



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Nikki Haley briefs the media after Hurricane Matthew blew through South Carolina.



GERRY MELENDEZ gmelendez@thestate.com

Hurricane Matthew destroyed Springmaid Pier in Myrtle Beach on Saturday.

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A row of power lines was damaged along U.S. 17 in Surfside as Hurricane Matthew swept by.

Title: **SC politicians storm social media during Hurricane Matthew**
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THE BUZZ

SC politicians storm social media during Hurricane Matthew

BY CASSIE COPE
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Hurricane Matthew dominated social media last week, and S.C. politicians took part in the storm-related posts.

"Lowcountry friends, come on up land now. Our Gov & President agree on this. They don't agree on much, so when they do, we should listen," tweeted state Rep. Mandy Powers Norrell, D-Lancaster.

More bipartisan support came from S.C. Democratic Party chairman Jaime Harrison, applauding GOP Gov. Nikki Haley.

"Kudos to Gov @nik-kihaley for her leadership in preparing for the Hurricane. Folks plz evacuate if you are in harm's way!" Harrison tweeted.

The anonymous S.C. Legislator Twitter account launched a couple of zingers:

- "Public service announcement for my fellow GOPers: Hurricane science is one of the sciences that we are allowed to believe in. Get out."

- "Hopefully everyone followed the governor's order to leave early to allow extra time to dodge

all the potholes along your evacuation route."

State Sen. Sean Bennett, R-Dorchester, took the Waffle House indicator seriously.

"Is this a serious storm? ... Uh. ... Yeah!" Bennett said, quoting Waffle House's tweet saying its restaurants along I-95 in Florida were closed.

State Rep. Nathan Ballentine, R-Richland, tweeted a screenshot of Haley's interpreter Jason Hurdich, who became famous during the governor's daily news conferences. Hurdich's thumbs and pinkies were out in a familiar symbol to Gamecock fans, Ballentine said: "#SpursUp."

Beaufort Republican Rep. Shannon Erickson tweeted emergency information but took a moment to make a shout-out to reporters, which The Buzz appreciates.

"My media friends - please take care & know that you're in our prayers! Thank you for making sure people have real information and data!"

MATTHEW CANCELS STATE HOUSE MEETINGS

At least three State House meetings last week were canceled because of Hurricane Matthew and have not yet been rescheduled.

They were:

- A hearing to allow the public to speak out about how S.C. pets and strays are treated
- A State Infrastructure Bank board meeting, highly anticipated because one subject includes more than \$400 million in state money set aside for the now-abandoned Interstate/526 Mark Clark expansion
- A S.C. House budget panel meeting

BUZZ BITES

- Gov. Haley wore a Batman button during her Wednesday hurricane news conference in honor of Townville Elementary School shooting victim Jacob Hall. Earlier in the day, Haley had attended 6-year-old Jacob's superhero-themed funeral.

