

Title: **MATTHEW'S MAYHEM**
 Author: By JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press
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MATTHEW'S MAYHEM

Storm should trace SC coastline

By **JEFFREY COLLINS**

Associated Press

HILTON HEAD ISLAND — As Hurricane Matthew swirled toward South Carolina, officials up and down the coast warned

the situation has turned worse with the storm now expected to trace the state's coastline over the next 24 hours bringing hurricane-force winds, torrential rains, dangerous storm surge and widespread power outages. "There is nothing safe about what is getting ready to happen" Gov. Nikki Haley warned Friday as she made a last plea for those on the coast to evacuate and follow the lead of those who have already headed inland. From Hilton Head Island to

Myrtle Beach residents braced for the storm whose center, according to National Hurricane Center projections, was expected to be just off Charleston today

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as a Category 2 hurricane with 100 mph winds. Beaufort County set a dusk to dawn curfew and Charleston imposed a curfew from midnight Friday through 6 a.m. Saturday.

Mayor John Tecklenburg reassured Charlestonians that after days of watching, Matthew will soon be past. He said Charleston has shown its resilience time and time again throughout its history and in the face of disaster and struggle, the city is at its best.

"It's time for us to hunker down and ride out this storm," he said.

Haley said during a midday news conference that an estimated 310,000 people had fled from coastal areas but said time was running out to leave.

"This is the last time you will

hear my voice when I am asking you to evacuate," she said.

Edgar Putnam was pretty sure he was going to ride out Hurricane Matthew in his boxy vacation home on the tip of St. Helena Island, fully aware of predictions that sea water pushed onshore by the storm should inundate the island.

"There is something of a sense of adventure to it," Putnam said as he worked to make final preparations to his home and several boats. "But I'm still thinking and looking at things. You don't want to risk your life."

Several other people could be seen driving around the island Friday morning, which was the site of South Carolina's worst hurricane disaster. The Sea Islands storm of 1893 brought 125 mph winds and

up to 14 feet of water. About 2,000 residents, mostly poor blacks, drowned.

The National Hurricane Center is predicting up to 6 feet of storm surge on parts of St. Helena Island with this hurricane with almost no part of the island just east of Beaufort staying dry.

Putnam said his neighbor told him he can ride out the storm in his home, which is elevated on stilts about 8 feet above the ground.

"My main worry is getting back," said Putnam, a real estate appraiser in Columbia. "In Hugo, it was more than a week before we could return and that created a lot of problems."

Leigh Webber was out Friday morning under gray skies in a steady breeze walking

along the Charleston Battery seawall.

She pays a lot of attention to reports on hurricanes - Facebook, the Weather Channel, Mike's Weather Page on the internet - and says she watched Matthew closely. And while she was a bit worried, she was not worried enough to leave.

"Three out of four made me feel OK but then there's always one panic-stricken comment, you know, that made me feel like maybe we should leave," the 41-year-old photographer said.

She plans to ride out the storm with her husband and son.

She lives in an area of the city that's not too prone to flooding and added while she's a little worried "it floods even when it doesn't rain here, just

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from the high tide.”

Charleston’s historic district was eerily quiet Friday with stores and homes boarded up.

“It’s been interesting enjoying Charleston when it’s been so empty the past few days,” she said.



SOURCE: NOAA

AP



**NIKKI
HALEY**

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

A car drives past a downed tree Friday as Hurricane Matthew moves through Daytona Beach, Fla.

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'A MONSTER'

A deadly Hurricane Matthew closes in on Florida

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Hurricane Matthew pelted Florida with heavy rains as the deadly storm steamed ever closer to the coast with potentially catastrophic winds of 130 mph Thursday. Two million people across the Southeast were warned to flee inland.

It was the most powerful storm to threaten the U.S. Atlantic coast in more than a decade, and had already left more than 280 dead in its wake across the Caribbean.

"This storm's a monster," Gov. Rick Scott warned as it

started lashing the state with periodic heavy rains and squalls around nightfall. He added: "I'm going to pray for everybody's safety."

In South Carolina, Gov. Nikki Haley says she's "begging" people to understand the seriousness of Hurricane Matthew and evacuate the South Carolina coast.

Haley says 280,000 people had evacuated as of 3 p.m. Thursday, but that means hundreds of thousands more need to leave.

She says forecasts are getting worse, but "we can't take you by the hand and bring you to

the Upstate."

Medical facilities to evacuate their patients include Beaufort Memorial Hospital. Haley says that should be an indication of the seriousness.

Authorities say the storm surge in some areas along the southern coast will exceed those when Hurricane Hugo hit the state in 1989. Haley says "imagine floor-to-ceiling" storm surges.

As it moved north in the evening, Matthew stayed about 100 miles or more off South Florida, sparing the 4.4 million people in the Miami and Fort Lauderdale areas from its most

punishing effects.

By Thursday night, more than 60,000 homes and businesses were without power. Streets in Vero Beach were partially covered with water, and hotel guests in Orlando were told to stay inside, though a few sneaked out to smoke or watch the rain.

The lobby of the Loews Sapphire Falls Resort was crowded with people and pets, including dogs occasionally snapping at each other. Some meals were served buffet style while other people waited more than 2 hours for a pizza delivery.

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PHOTOS BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palm trees that are swaying in high gusts of wind, Thursday in Vero Beach, Fla.

Title: **Burton Center opens door to Beaufort residents**
 Author: By ADAM BENSON abenson@indexjournal.com
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Burton Center opens door to Beaufort residents

By ADAM BENSON

abenson@indexjournal.com

After an arduous daylong trek across the state on a clogged interstate, emotions finally got the better of Bill Love in the wee hours of Thursday morning.

"This is corny. I know this is corny but about two o'clock, I was in tears because from the moment we started, everything just worked," Love, director of Beaufort County's Disabilities and Special Needs Department, said. "From the moment we got started, it was an amazing experience."

Among the half million coastal residents heading inland to avoid Hurricane

Matthew were 55 clients and 13 staffers from Love's department, who pulled into the Burton Center's Greenwood campus at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday with a 15-vehicle convoy that left at 10 a.m.

"We both have the same mission to take care of vulnerable people, and that's what we're going to do," Burton Center executive director Jimmy Burton said. "It's disruptive to pull people from their homes, and our job is to make it as pleasant as possible."

The evacuees might have to stay in Greenwood through the weekend. Love said officials will monitor the track of the storm before deciding on a departure time.

Beaufort County and the Burton Center have had a memorandum of agreement in place for nearly 20 years in the event of an emergency, but this week is the first time it has ever been implemented.

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In a matter of hours, agency workers converted Burton Center's gymnasium into a mobile living facility equipped with beds, dining tables and privacy screens.

Donna Harter, employee health nurse at Burton who oversees its disaster response team, said the 24-person stay staff remained in constant communication with one another.

"We have a great team, and everyone on it came together," he said.

They also made sure a hot meal was ready for the evacuees upon their arrival, which marked by a sign that read "WELCOME BEAUFORT COUNTY."

"I have been blown away," said Jimmy Tarrance, a training specialist with Beaufort

County. "When we got here yesterday, they were waving and taking pictures and then I saw that sign and it lit me up like a candle."

Gov. Nikki Haley said Thursday that about 175,000 people have evacuated from the Charleston and Beaufort areas. Haley had hoped as many as 250,000 would flee from the area before Hurricane Matthew approaches.

Wanda Mays, residential director of Beaufort County's DSN department, said the outpouring of support from her Greenwood colleagues and surrounding businesses has been overwhelming.

"You can feel that it's genuine. It's felt effortless," she said. "I've been in this business a long time, I've gone through evacuations before, and it's just kind of clicked."

Love said local hotels — including the Hampton Inn &

Suites and Holiday Inn Express — have been flexible in booking rooms and keeping them open for extended periods so tired workers can grab a few hours of sleep or a take a shower.

Chick-Fil-A of Greenwood provided free meals to the Beaufort guests.

"When we were contacted for a dinner donation, we immediately thought it was an awesome opportunity to help a need in our community," Chick-Fil-A marketing director Kayla Timmerman said in an email.

Gary Kubic, Beaufort County's administrator, said the relationship between local government and state agencies allowed for such a quick evacuation plan.

"Our staff people, they have families, but they're dedicated to help our consumers, but I'm real proud of them. It's one

less thing to worry about and I'm also grateful for the folks in your area who have been very accommodating in working with us," he said. "We work on this all the time and we have a great relationship with the agencies and because we had advanced notice, we were able to evacuate and keep our mentally challenged consumers safe."

Love said his clients have also responded to Greenwood's generosity.

"People might not understand the disruption, but what they will understand is when people care," he said. "I think this is a situation to see the best of all of us, from police officers stopping traffic to those people at hotels."

Contact reporter Adam Benson at 864-943-5650 or on Twitter @ABensonIJ.

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PHOTOS BY ADAM BENSON | INDEX JOURNAL

The Burton Center gymnasium has been converted into a mobile living facility for 80 consumers and staff members from the Beaufort County Disabilities & Special Needs Department.



Burton Center employees Louise Robinson, left, Donna Harter, center and Wanda Hays of the Beaufort County Disabilities & Special Needs Department chat Thursday morning at the Greenwood facility, which is hosting more than 80 coastal evacuees.

Title: **Out-of-town visitors provide economic boon for businesses**
 Author: BY DAN BROWN dbrown@fikenstandard.com
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Out-of-town visitors provide economic boon for businesses

BY DAN BROWN

dbrown@aikenstandard.com

There was no wind, no rain, no floods, but instead Matthew hit in the form of thousands of evacuees heading west into Aiken from Hilton Head to Charleston to avoid the Category 4 storm.

The wind and rain associated with Hurricane Matthew aren't expected to impact South Carolina and the Aiken area until early Saturday, but the human side of the storm hit Aiken Wednesday, filling hotels, packing

restaurants, supermarkets and shops, spending money on par with Masters week in April.

Visitors sounded just as excited as local business owners.

Maybe more so.

"This is the most amazing town I've ever seen, no parking meters," said Terry Martin, in Aiken from the metro Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area by way of Sea Pines on Hilton Head Island. "The weather is beautiful,

the downtown area is so picturesque, and parking is free. This is the first place I've been to that didn't charge for parking, and there were places to park."

Martin and his wife Linda were enjoying their vacation at Sea Pines on Hilton Head Island when they were forced to evacuate Tuesday afternoon.

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"They came to us and said 'you have to go' and said we had to be out by 3 p.m., and we had nowhere to go," he said. "Linda called Augusta and they were full, and it was by pure luck we found a room here in Aiken."

The Martins are staying at the Carriage House, and said the newly renovated hotel was like out of a storybook.

"It has an antique shop there with all these great pieces on display, very picturesque," Linda said, who found the room vacancy online. "We want to see the oaks on South Boundary and ride our bikes through the older part of town. We're having a great time."

Any thoughts of Matthew and its potential damage were lost on visitors as they enjoyed the unique small town atmosphere Aiken has to offer.

"This is such a beautiful town, I love it," said Anita Lucas, of Charleston, enjoying a late lunch with her daughter Riley in The Alley. "There was no traffic heading out of Charleston as we came out (U.S.) 78; the weather

is beautiful, and this is just amazing here."

Lucas was particularly taken with the quaintness of the newly renovated Alley.

"This is so beautiful, so clean," she said.

Riley, 18, and a freshman at Trident Tech in Charleston, scrolled through her cell-phone.

"Is this Macon, or Aiken?"

Riley's exams were canceled this week when all schools closed due to the approaching storm.

"This is like a vacation, not a hurricane," she said.

Area business owners have enjoyed the economic boon offered by Matthew.

Downtown Aiken was crowded with visitors Thursday afternoon as out-of-towners looked for somewhere to take a load off their minds.

City Billiards owner Mike Allen said his restaurant was "standing room only," during Thursday's lunch rush.

"I love hurricanes," Allen said. "I know it's rough to force people to leave their homes, but we love it here. We needed this."

Allen said the economic

boon they expect to see from Hurricane Matthew helps make up for a very slow summer.

"It's been dead here for the past couple months," he said. "I don't know if it was from the heat, the economy or because it was an election year, but we needed Matthew. It helps make up for the past couple months."

Zorba's Island Pizza will be open this weekend as long as it has power. If Matthew is anything like the ice storm of 2014, owner Nick Chionakis expects to be busy.

"We were packed that day," he said. "It was the best day we ever had over the 20 years we'd been open. We will be open all weekend regardless of the weather. If we have power, we'll be open."

In 2014, Zorba's opened because there really wasn't anything else to do, Chionakis said.

"We didn't know what would happen. We thought it would be dead here that day as no one could get out. But everybody came. We were one of the few restaurants open during the ice storm, and we were packed."

The same is anticipated this weekend.

This economic good fortune has been felt by local grocers and retailers all week.

At Publix on Whiskey Road, according to store employees, the first rush of shoppers inundated the store shortly after

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley declared the state of emergency Tuesday.

"Every grocery cart was being used by a customer," said a Publix employee. "There were none in the bays at the front of the store, and the parking lot cart corrals were empty."

Jay Jackson, general manager at Trivinia Italian Kitchen and Wine Bar on Fabian Drive off Whiskey Road, said the rush started Wednesday night.

"We got really busy and expect the rush to continue through the weekend and on, until everyone is able to return to their homes," he said.

Jackson said his restaurant staff is prepared for the Matthew rush and ready to accommodate the out-of-town crowd.

"We have been anticipating this since the first of the week," he said. "We were very busy during Thursday lunch



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and expect a bigger crowd Thursday night.”

When the rush will abate is anybody’s guess, Jackson said, as the impact from Matthew hasn’t been felt yet locally.

“We’ll be ready for as long as those who had to evacuate are

here,” he said.

Cindy Rudisill, owner of Cyndi’s Sweet Shoppe on Laurens Street, said her sweet shop had been swarmed with customers all day to the point she had to call in help.

“It’s been unbelievable,” she said. “And the out-of-town vis-

itors have all been so nice and so pleasant, and so impressed with Aiken. Everybody is having a wonderful time.”

Rudisill said, while Matthew is an unfortunate situation for a lot of people, Aiken has enjoyed the economic boon the

evacuees have provided so far.

“We really needed it,” she said. “It’s been dead here the past couple months. The summer had been rough.”

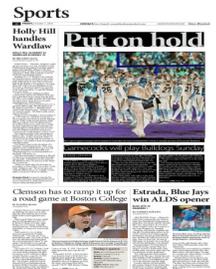
Dan Brown is the city government reporter for the *Aiken Standard*.



INSIDE

How will storm impact Aiken? | **2A**

Title: **Put on hold**
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Put on hold

Gamecocks will play Bulldogs Sunday

BY DAVID CARAVIELLO

Post and Courier

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's home football game against Georgia will be played Sunday due to Hurricane Matthew.

The Gamecocks and Bulldogs will kick off at 2:30 p.m. and the game will remain at Williams-Brice Stadium, relaxing fears of a second USC game in as many seasons relocated due to weather issues.

The Gamecocks were scheduled to host Georgia at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, the same day Matthew is forecast to be just off the Palmetto State coast near Beaufort. The Category 4 storm packed winds of 140 mph Thursday evening as it neared Florida, leading the SEC

to postpone a scheduled game Saturday between LSU and Florida in Gainesville, Fla.

"There are a lot of logistics that go into this," Muschamp said on his radio program. "... and obviously, we need to be sensitive to what's going on in our state right now. How catastrophic this storm will be, no one knows. But the most important thing is the safety of the people on our coast."

Gov. Nikki Haley said earlier in the week that she couldn't imagine the South Carolina-Georgia game taking place as scheduled, and reiterated Thursday that USC would receive no state support for the game with Highway Patrol officers overseeing coastal evacuations.

"We have to make sure they're on the roads," she said.

USC had previously announced that the game would not be moved from Columbia, as was the case last season when a contest against LSU was relocated to Baton Rouge, La., in the aftermath of historic flooding in the Midlands. A USC official told a Columbia radio station that Sunday and Monday were potential options if the game had to be re-scheduled.

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"I'm going to leave that up to the school," Haley said of the decision on when to play the game. "Because they

know what they're required to have, they know what their issues are. They're very conscious of safety, and very conscious of making sure that things move forward only if they can handle it. So right

now they're looking to see if they can do with the assets they have in place."

The unavailability of state troopers means USC would rely more heavily on officers from the Richland County

Sheriff's Office, among other local authorities.

Meteorologist John Quagliariello of Columbia's National Weather Service office told reporters that Matthew is forecast to parallel the South



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Carolina coast Saturday as a strong Category 2 storm, which "is a cause for concern." Forecasts for Saturday night in Columbia call for rain and 20 to 30 mph winds. Sunday is forecast to be clear.

USC President Harris Pastides reiterated the school's desire to play the game in Columbia in an open letter to students.

"I know the remaining big question has to do with football," he wrote. "A decision regarding Saturday's

game with the University of Georgia will be made in consultation with state and local officials as well as the Southeastern Conference. The safety of all people and the minimization of impact on emergency personnel are the most important factors in this decision."

South Carolina played a home game against Georgia Tech two days after Hurricane Hugo landed a direct hit on the Charleston area in 1989. A 2005 SEC game

involving LSU and Tennessee was moved from Saturday to Monday due to Hurricane Rita in 2005.

Extra points

- Muschamp said starting wide receivers Deebo Samuel and Bryan Edwards, who missed last weekend's game with hamstring injuries, "looked very good moving around" Thursday and are "full speed and ready to go" for Georgia. Receiver Rاندrecous Davis (hamstring)

and offensive lineman Donell Stanley (ankle) remain out.

- Tight end Hayden Hurst has won the job to be USC's starting punt returner. "Ball security is the most important thing right now, and I have a lot of confidence in Hayden," Muschamp said.

USC muffed two punt returns last weekend, fumbling one away.

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ARTIE WALKER/SPECIAL TO THE AIKEN STANDARD, FILE

USC's game against Georgia will be played in Columbia but was rescheduled for 2:30 p.m. Sunday because of Hurricane Matthew.

Title: **Still much to be done to battle domestic violence**
 Author:
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Still much to be done to battle domestic violence

There's much to be happy about the state of South Carolina dropping in ranking of women murdered by men. However, cases of domestic violence still shown in the state and in Aiken County remain the fact that there's still work to be done.

Last month, the Violence Policy Center in Washington, D.C., reported South Carolina dropped to No. 5 from No. 1 in the nation for the rate of women murdered by men in 2014.

The drop in rank was accompanied by a drop in the state's rate of women murdered by men: from 2.32 per 100,000 in 2013 to 1.73 per 100,000 in 2014, according to the report.

However, the report showed the 2014 rate is still higher than the national average of 1.08 per 100,000.

Violence against women, including in Aiken County, continues to be a problem.

Susan Seldon, the executive director of the Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons, said while the county doesn't have as many cases of homicide, the organization does see a lot of abuse victims.

The Cumbee Center, 135 Lancaster St., provides temporary shelter, counseling and assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The agency also offers counseling to offenders and education to

the general public.

Just recently, state Attorney General Alan Wilson held his annual Silent Witness Ceremony at the Statehouse. Wilson read off 47 names, all killed by their partners in 2015.

In all, there were 35 female victims, 12 male victims and one unknown represented. Of that, four were from Aiken County – three women and one man.

Guns were the primary weapon used in the homicides, with 64 percent of the cases listing a gunshot wound as the primary cause of death. Knives were used in 15 percent of the cases and 21 percent were from other causes.

These are hard numbers to chew yet they show the importance of why we need agencies like the Cumbee Center.

The purple ribbons you've seen hanging on the light poles in downtown Aiken are more than just lip service. They reflect the importance of why we recognize, among other reasons, October being Domestic Violence Awareness month.

They remind us of the loved ones, the family members, the dads, the sisters and daughters who have been killed by senseless violence by their partners.

Unless tackled head-on, domestic violence is always going to be a problem, said Lt. Karl Odenthal with the Aiken Department of Public Safety.

The police agency has been taking proactive steps to combat the issue, Odenthal said.

But even with police involved, residents of Aiken County and of South Carolina need to be proactive.

Laws, like the one signed by Gov. Nikki Haley on June 4, 2015, won't just combat the issue.

The law increases the penalties for repeat domestic violence offenders based on the severity of the attack, the number of prior offenses and other factors, such as whether the victim was strangled, is pregnant or was abused with children nearby. The law also imposing a lifetime gun ban on the worst abusers and an automatic 3- or 10-year ban in other cases.

To solve the problem of domestic violence education and resources are up just as important.

As is the importance of speaking up if you see a problem.

Unless tackled head-on, domestic violence is always going to be a problem, according to Lt. Karl Odenthal with the Aiken Department of Public Safety.

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Title: **Here's what you need to know**
 Author: BY CHLOE JOHNSON cjohnson@thesunnews.com
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RIDING OUT THE STORM

Here's what you need to know

BY CHLOE JOHNSON

cjohnson@thesunnews.com

As Gov. Nikki Haley pushed back possible evacuation times for Horry and Georgetown Counties in a Wednesday morning news conference, some residents already were beginning to leave the Grand Strand. Haley said Wednesday morning that those who ignore an evacuation order may be putting the lives of emergency responders at risk if they have to be rescued later.

However, those staying need to make sure they're prepared for a storm that could cause serious damage to the Grand Strand.

1. PREPARE ENOUGH FOOD, WATER AND SUPPLIES

South Carolina's Emergency Management Division advises keeping enough supplies for at least three days. Each person in a home requires at least one gallon of water per day.

Those staying also need to stock up on non-perishable food and batteries, for flashlights and radios. Residents

also are advised to have at least a month of any prescription medication ready.

Other items that may be helpful are wipes, extra garbage bags and activities for children. Get cash now, because it may be difficult to access banking services or ATMs if power is out in the area for an extended period. Families with pets need to plan for them as well, and make sure they have an adequate supply of water and food for furry friends.

2. SECURE THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME

Patio furniture, grills, doghouses and anything else outside needs to be secured or brought inside the house. Anything that isn't secured can become a projectile and damage windows or other parts of a home.

Storm shutters and plywood are an option for those who want to cover windows. Garage and porch doors should also be secured so that they can withstand strong winds.

3. PREPARE THE INSIDE

OF YOUR HOME

Turn refrigerators to the coldest setting, so that food will keep for as long as possible if power goes out. Only open the fridge when absolutely necessary, and do not keep the door open.

Electronics or wires sitting on the ground should be raised to a higher level, in case of flooding. Surge protectors can protect computers and other expensive electronics in the case of a power surge.

4. LISTEN TO LOCAL MEDIA FOR UPDATES

A radio with an independent power source is the best way to retain contact in the immediate aftermath of the storm. Cellphones and chargers should also be kept handy.

After the storm, flash flooding, downed trees and other factors may make travel difficult, and the evacuation zone may also be blocked off as crucial personnel re-enter.

Chloe Johnson:
843-626-0381, @ChloeAJ

Title: **Nearly 2 million urged to evacuate as storm nears**
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HURRICANE MATTHEW

Nearly 2 million urged to evacuate as storm nears

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER
AND KELLI KENNEDY

Associated Press

MELBOURNE BEACH, FLA.

Hurricane Matthew marched toward Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas and nearly 2 million people along the coast were urged to evacuate their homes Wednesday, a mass exodus ahead of a major storm packing power the U.S. hasn't seen in more than a decade.

Matthew was a dangerous and life-threatening Category 3 storm with sustained winds of 120 mph as it passed through the Bahamas, and it was expected to be very near Florida's Atlantic coast by Thursday evening. At least 16 deaths in the Caribbean have been blamed on the storm, with heavy damage reported in Haiti.

After moving past Haiti, Matthew rolled across a corner of Cuba and then began pounding the southern Bahamas with winds of 120 mph and heavy rain on a course expected to take it near the capital city of Nassau.

The storm was forecast to

scrape much of the Florida coast and any slight deviation could mean landfall or it heading farther out to sea. Either way, it was going to be close enough to wreak havoc along the lower part of the East Coast, and many people weren't taking any chances.

In Melbourne Beach, near the Kennedy Space Center, Carlos and April Medina moved their paddle board and kayak inside the garage and took pictures off the walls of their home about 500 feet from the coast. They moved the pool furniture inside, turned off the water, disconnected all electrical appliances and emptied their refrigerator.

They then hopped in a truck filled with legal documents, jewelry and a decorative carved shell that had once belonged to April Medina's great-grandfather and headed west to Orlando, where they planned to ride out the storm with their daughter's family.

"The way we see it, if it

maintains its current path, we get tropical storm-strength winds. If it makes a little shift to the left, it could be a Category 2 or 3 and I don't want to be anywhere near it," Carlos Medina said. "We are just being a little safe, a little bit more cautious."

About 20 miles away in the town of Cape Canaveral, John Long said Hurricane Matthew is just hype as his neighbors in his RV park packed up and evacuated inland. Even though his 32-foot RV is just feet from the Banana River and a half mile from the beach, he had no plans to leave.

Long, who owns a bike shop and has lived along the Space Coast for 30 years, said he has a generator and enough food and water for himself and his cats to last a week.

"There's always tremendous buildup, and then it's no stronger than an afternoon thunderstorm," he said. "I'm not anticipating that much damage."

In Fort Lauderdale, about 200 miles south, six employees at a seven-bedroom Mediterranean-style mansion packed up for an evacuation fearing any storm

surge could flood the property. The homeowners planned to move to another home they own in Palm Beach that's further from the water. Two Lamborghinis and a Ferrari had been placed inside the garage, but employee Mae White wasn't sure what they would do with a Rolls Royce, Mustang and other cars still parked in the driveway.

"This storm surge. It's scary," White said. "You're on the water, you've got to go."

The last Category 3 storm or higher to hit the United States was Wilma in October 2005. It made landfall with 120 mph winds in southwest Florida, killing five people as it pushed through the Everglades and into the Fort Lauderdale and Palm Beach area. It caused an estimated \$21 billion in damage and



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left thousands of residents without power for more than a week. It concluded a two-year span when a record eight hurricanes hit the state.

As of 5 p.m. EDT Wednesday, Matthew was centered about 400 miles southeast of West Palm Beach and moving northwest, according to the National Hurricane Center. Hurricane-force winds extended 45 miles from the center.

“When a hurricane is forecast to take a track roughly parallel to a coastline, as Matthew is forecast to do from Florida through South Carolina, it becomes very difficult to specify im-

pacts at any one location,” said National Hurricane Center forecaster Lixion Avila.

Florida can expect as much as 10 inches of rain in some isolated areas.

In South Carolina, Gov. Nikki Haley reversed the lanes of Interstate 26 so that all lanes of traffic were headed west and out of Charleston. It was the first time the lanes had been reversed. Plans to reverse the lanes were put in place after hours-long traffic jams during Hurricane Floyd in 1999.

The governor planned to call for more evacuations on Thursday, which would bring the total to about 500,000 people in the state.

Florida urged or ordered about 1.5 million to leave the coast, said Jackie Schutz, spokeswoman for Gov. Rick Scott. Georgia had around 50,000 people told to go.

At Folly Beach, South Carolina, southwest of Charleston, Gaby Trompeter loaded her car at her beachfront home preparing to evacuate to Augusta, Georgia.

Trompeter, a 50-year-old goldsmith who designs and makes jewelry, remembers Hurricane Hugo when she stayed in Savannah, Georgia, in 1989.

A year ago when what has been described as a 1,000-year flood inundated South Carolina there was so much

water on the road near her house she couldn't get out for three days.

“If it brings a lot of rain, more than the storm last year, why would I want to stay?” she said.

President Barack Obama visited the Federal Emergency Management Agency's headquarters Wednesday to be briefed on preparations. FEMA has deployed personnel to emergency operation centers in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. It's also positioning commodities and other supplies at Fort Bragg in North Carolina and in Albany, Georgia.

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CRAIG LENIHAN AP

Landscapers ride along a stretch of road in the eastern district of Nassau, Bahamas, that was partially flooded Wednesday from rain triggered by the arrival of Hurricane Matthew. Forecasters said the storm was on track to roll directly over the capital city before approaching the Florida coast.

Title: **What to expect during Thursday's Hurricane Matthew evacuation**
 Author: BY AUDREY HUDSON ahudson@thesunnews.com
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What to expect during Thursday's Hurricane Matthew evacuation

BY AUDREY HUDSON
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Evacuation of Zone A in Horry County is set to begin at noon Thursday, a process that is expected to take 15 hours and create traffic headaches for residents across the county.

Traffic lanes are not expected to be reversed on U.S. 501, but the priority for public safety officials directing the evacuation is to move traffic away from the beach area, not allowing more traffic into the area.

Residents who live inside the affected zone that runs along the beachfront areas who choose to ignore the evacuation order, may find themselves going to work in the morning and coming home to a residential area

FROM PAGE 3A

EVACUATION

By Wednesday, forecasts indicated that Matthew will take a sharp right turn out to sea early Saturday morning before reaching South Carolina.

With a few days remaining before the storm strikes, the National Hurricane Center warns that Matthew's erratic path is still subject to change, and that South Carolina residents should pay close attention to evolving weather reports.

Coast RTA will temporarily suspend scheduled routes Thursday in order to assist with evacuating residents in the affected zone to one of 20 local shelters in

blocked by law enforcement.

Local officials say it's their primary job to enforce the evacuation order, but will also look at individual circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

"We take enforcement of an evacuation seriously, and will enforce it," said Pat Dowling, spokesman for North Myrtle Beach. "But once you get down to the local level, you may have somebody who has to go to their essential job. We're going to look at that and talk to the person, and the officer at the point of entry can make that decision."

In Myrtle Beach, Lt. Joey Crosby said getting into the

the county.

Once the evacuation is completed, law enforcement officials will be present in the zone to protect property against looters. Curfews may be put in place, but residents will not be forced to leave their homes.

"Are we going to go door-to-door and make them leave? No," Crosby said. "We will make recommendations and encourage folks to leave and also advise them of potential danger they are in if they don't."

In South Carolina, evacuations are no longer mandatory or voluntary, but rather an order issued by the

city once an evacuation begins will depend on whether the governor orders lanes on 501 be reversed to expedite the movement of traffic.

"If there is no lane reversal, that person would be able to come back home," Crosby said.

Haley initially announced that evacuations in Horry and Georgetown counties would begin Wednesday afternoon, but postponed her order until Thursday. Although she set the time at noon, she said she will confirm that order Thursday morning.

To see a map of the Grand Strand evacuation zones, [click here](#).

governor that residents are to follow.

The purpose of an evacuation is to escape the storm surge. Technically, no one is allowed back in the area until the governor lifts the evacuation order, said Lisa Bourcier, Horry County spokeswoman.

Law enforcement will work with residents who choose to stay behind as best they can, but the purpose of an evacuation is to leave the area, Bourcier said.

Statewide, Haley ordered evacuations from hurricane zones in Charleston and Beaufort on Wednesday,

The evacuation zone includes all areas east of U.S. Business 17 to the intersection with U.S. 17, and all areas east of U.S. 17 to the northern county line. In addition, evacuations include all low-lying areas, mobile homes and campground sites.

The pending evacuation order prompted Horry County officials to move to OPGON 2.

Weather forecasts for Hurricane Matthew on

Tuesday showed the storm making a Category 2 landing north of Myrtle Beach on the North Carolina border.

SEE EVACUATION, 10A

and ordered lane reversals on Interstate 26 to accommodate the flow while the evacuation is in process.

For Horry County, the evacuation routes are as follows:

● **North Myrtle Beach and northward:** Evacuees from north of Briarcliffe Acres will take SC 9 north to I-95 and beyond.

● **Briarcliffe Acres south to Myrtle Beach 10th Avenue North:** Evacuees in Briarcliffe Acres south to 10th Avenue North (Mr. Joe White Avenue) will take SC 22 (Conway Bypass) to US 501 to Marion. In Marion, they may then take US 76 to

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Florence to access I-95 southbound or they may stay on US 501 to SC 38 to access I-95 northbound.

● **Myrtle Beach, from 10th Avenue North south to the Myrtle Beach International Airport:** Evacuees from the Myrtle Beach area south of 10th Avenue North and north of the Myrtle Beach International Airport will take US 501 to

Conway. They may then take US 378 to Columbia or continue on US 501 to Marion. In Marion they may then take US 76 to Florence to access I-95 southbound or they may stay on US 501 to SC 38 to access I-95 northbound.

● **Myrtle Beach International Airport southward through Surfside Beach:** Evacuees from the Myrtle Beach International Airport

south through Surfside Beach will take SC 544 to US 501 to Conway. They may then take US 378 to Columbia or continue on US 501 to Marion. In Marion they may then take US 76 to Florence to access I-95 southbound or they may stay on US 501 to SC 38 to access I-95 northbound.

● **Garden City Beach south to Winyah Bay:** Evacuees from Garden City

Beach south to Winyah Bay will take US 17 south through Georgetown. They will then take US 521 to SC 261 to US 378 to Columbia. Alternatively, they may take US 17 south to US 701 in Georgetown to SC 51 to US 378 at Kingsburg.

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Traffic was light on U.S. 501 leading in and out of Myrtle Beach on Wednesday.

Title: **The Bahamas are nailed by Matthew as Haiti digs out**
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The Bahamas are nailed by Matthew as Haiti digs out

BY DAVID MCFADDEN

The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

Rescue workers in Haiti struggled to reach isolated towns on Haiti's southern peninsula and learn the full extent of the death and destruction caused by Hurricane Matthew as the powerful storm lashed at the Bahamas on Wednesday and triggered large-scale evacuations along the U.S. East Coast.

At least 16 deaths were blamed on the hurricane during its week-long march across the Caribbean, 10 of them in Haiti. Marie Alta Jean-Baptiste, head of Haiti's civil protection agency, announced Wednesday that Haiti's confirmed death toll had doubled from five to 10.

FROM PAGE 1A

STORM

killing five people.

Nearly 2 million people along the lower East Coast were urged to evacuate their homes.

"If you're able to go early, leave now," Florida Gov. Rick Scott warned.

On Tuesday, Matthew swept across a remote area of Haiti with 145 mph winds, wrecking homes and swamping roads. But government leaders in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere said they weren't close to fully gauging the effect in the flood-prone nation where less powerful storms have killed thousands.

"What we know is that many, many houses have been damaged. Some lost rooftops and they'll have to be replaced, while others were totally destroyed," Interior Minister Francois Anick Joseph said.

County: Horry

But with a key bridge washed out, roads impassable and phone communications down, the western tip of Haiti has been largely cut off a day after Matthew made landfall and there was no full accounting of the dead and injured in its wake.

But Jean-Baptiste indicated that her agency was starting to get a better handle about what happened in hard-hit Grande Anse department on Haiti's southern peninsula and expected to soon release more information about what rescuers were finding.

After moving past Haiti, Matthew rolled across a corner of

Cuba and began pounding the southern Bahamas with heavy wind and rain. Weakening a bit, it had maximum sustained winds of 115 mph by Wednesday night as it spun on a course expected to take it near the capital city of Nassau during the night. It was expected to regain strength overnight.

Forecasters said the storm could hit Florida - or come dangerously close - Thursday evening and then sideswipe the East Coast all the way up to the Carolinas over the weekend. Matthew could become the first major hurricane to blow ashore in the U.S. since Wilma slashed across Florida in 2005,

SEE STORM, 8A

Late Wednesday afternoon, the U.S. military announced that a small advance team would start preparing for the arrival of roughly 100 military personnel and nine helicopters currently in the Cayman Islands.

The U.S. government said it sent experts to Haiti to assess the damage and is providing \$1.5 million in food and other disaster assistance.

Mourad Wahba, the U.N. secretary-general's deputy special representative for Haiti, called the hurricane the biggest humanitarian crisis in Haiti since the devastating earthquake of 2010.

The Haitian government postponed Sunday's presidential election, in part because some schools and churches that are used as polling stations are serving as shelters and police can't

get election materials to some districts. A new date for the vote was not expected to be announced until next week.

Aid groups with representatives in the area said it was clear that many homes and crops were destroyed but that the extent was impossible to gauge, especially in the Grand Anse area on the southwestern tip, which Matthew's eye raked over.

"We have people in Grand Anse that we cannot reach," Hervil Cherubin, country director for Heifer International, a nonprofit group that works with local farmers.

While the capital, Port-au-Prince, was essentially back to normal in many spots, there was still widespread flooding across southern Haiti.

"There's absolutely nothing we can do to protect

ourselves here," motorcycle taxi driver Joseph Paul said as he watched torrents of brown water wash over a road and deluge his low-lying neighborhood in Leogane. "This storm was too much for us, and we are at its mercy."

The hurricane blew across the sparsely populated eastern tip of Cuba on Tuesday night, destroying dozens of homes in Cuba's easternmost city, Baracoa, and damaging hundreds.

People stood amid the rubble of their homes, weeping, hugging or staring into the distance. Others scoured piles of concrete and rebar for any possessions they could recover. Some carried cooking pots and rolled-up mattresses through the streets on their way to a shelter.

"I've never seen something like this in my life,"

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Elva Perez, a 55-year-old homemaker said as she stood by what remained of her home. "For more than 200 years, here in this house, nothing like this has ever happened."

At the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the storm knocked down trees and caused road flooding but no injuries or major damage, said Julie Ripley, a spokeswoman.

At 8 p.m. EDT, Matthew was centered about 165

miles south-southeast of Nassau in the eastern Bahamas. It was heading northwest at 12 mph.

Hurricane-force winds extended outward up to 45 miles from the center, meaning Matthew could wreak havoc along the East Coast even if it did not actually come ashore.

Along the East Coast, people boarded up beach homes, some schools closed and residents began clearing

out.

The office of Florida's government said 1.5 million people were being encouraged to move to safer spots.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley announced plans to evacuate a quarter-million people from the coast, not counting tourists, starting Wednesday afternoon.

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THERE'S

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING WE CAN DO TO PROTECT OURSELVES HERE. THIS STORM WAS TOO MUCH FOR US, AND WE ARE AT ITS MERCY.

Haitian motorcycle taxi driver Joseph Paul



TIM AYLEN AP

A city work crew puts concrete barricades in place along the shoreline in preparation for the arrival of Hurricane Matthew in the Bahamas.

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DIEU NALIO CHERY AP

A boy stands inside a church after it was damaged by Hurricane Matthew in Saint-Louis, Haiti, on Wednesday. Rescue workers in Haiti struggled to reach cut-off towns and learn the full extent of the death and destruction caused by the hurricane.