

Title: **Will FEMA help clear private roads?**
 Author: STAFF REPORTS newsroom@islandpacket.com
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BEAUFORT COUNTY

Will FEMA help clear private roads?

STAFF REPORTS
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Beaufort County is still awaiting word from the Federal Emergency Management Agency on whether the federal government will assist with debris removal in private and gated communities.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, Beaufort County sent a letter to FEMA requesting help with debris removal from gated communities and private roads under the agency's Public Assistance Program.

In general, the cost of debris removal on private property is ineligible for FEMA assistance, according to a Beaufort County news release.

The county received a response from FEMA requesting additional

information to process the county's application for assistance.

The county then reached out to Gov. Nikki Haley and a host of state agencies requesting support and is awaiting a response, according to the release.

Beaufort County also has compiled a list of more than 90 local, private communities that have contacted the county with requests for assistance removing debris.

Those figures do not include communities on Hilton Head Island, which is utilizing a different debris removal contractor from the county, according to the release.

However, the island has supported the county in its pursuit of FEMA's approval, since all portions of Beaufort County will be affected, if granted.

Title: **Matthew taught us to play Scrabble**
 Author: BY DAVID KENNARD
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Matthew taught us to play Scrabble

BY DAVID KENNARD

I can now add hurricanes to the list of natural disasters that I have survived.

Although, from what I've been told by longtime Lowcountry residents, Matthew wasn't nearly as bad as some of the storms that have wreaked havoc around here.

I am, however, sitting on my living room sofa wearing a headlamp and typing this column by the dying battery power on my laptop computer.

SCE&G hasn't made it to my neighborhood yet.

Here is what I learned from surviving my first hurricane:

1. Weather forecasters generally know what they are talking about. They said what was going to happen, and they were right. And I love the term "cone of uncertainty." You can bet that's going to get plenty of use around the Kennard home.

Mom: Nate are you coming home for Christmas?

Nate: That's still within the cone of uncertainty.

Dad: Sam, take the garbage out
 Sam: That's still within ...

Dad: Get the garbage out or I'm turning off the Internet.

2. Nature strikes back.

With the air conditioning out, we've had the windows open to provide some cooler breeze in the house. Sleeping with the windows open reminds us that we live in a swamp. The song of the frogs are nice to listen as you drift off to sleep, but at 4 in the morning when they won't shut up, the only thing you can do is stumble across the room and window then try to go back to sleep.

Sam is learning to live without Internet. It wouldn't be so bad, except he and his two brothers – one in Ohio and another in California – enjoy playing online games together. They are a little upset that Sam can't come out to play.

In the meantime, Suesan and I have introduced him to board games. We even broke out the Old Maid cards Sunday night when everyone got tired of Scrabble.

3. Falling trees appear to be the biggest threat in a hurricane.

As I drove around the area on Sunday, I couldn't believe how many huge, old trees were down. I saw 100-foot long leaf pines laying on houses, power lines, across roads. I saw drivers braver (crazier) than me actually drive under some of these fallen giants.

It's a shame that we lost so many to the storm, especially when we have been losing these by huge numbers to development. My inner tree hugger weeps

when I think about how long some of these trees have been around just to have a minor hurricane uproot them or snap them off at the trunk.

4. Chips are the food of choice in most hurricane survival kits.

When Sam and I walked through the grocery store on Friday evening to pick up a few last-minute items before hunkering down, we saw empty shelves in the chip aisle, the water aisle and the bread aisle.

I know there is a law against price gouging, but anyone around here who owns a Frito-Lay truck during a hurricane has pure gold.

Here is a conversation I overheard on Sunday morning when I stopped by a convenience store looking for ice.

Customer: Girl, you ain't got no chips?

Clerk: All we have is a few pork skins left.

Customer: (Expletive), you got cleaned out.

It should be noted that there were plenty of Slim Jims, three-day old donuts and boiled peanuts for anyone looking. I wasn't.

I bought my three bags of ice and left.

5. Evacuation is a good idea.

When Gov. Nikki Haley ordered the evacuation of the Lowcountry, thousands left.

Had I not been a working member of the press, I probably would have left as well. We have friends

in Greenville who invited us to stay.

I was very impressed with the organization the state put in place. I knew things were serious when they reversed the inbound lanes of traffic on the interstate.

Then I really knew things were serious on Friday afternoon when a Dorchester County councilman said, "If (residents) haven't already left, it's probably better that they hunker down and ride it out."

We rode it out.

Matthew may not have been "the big one," but at least in our family, we'll be talking about that time Hurricane Matthew blew in and forced us to play Scrabble for hours on end.

David Kennard is the executive editor of Summerville Communications, which publishes the Berkeley Independent, Goose Creek Gazette and Summerville Journal Scene. Contact him at dkennard@journalscene.com or 843-873-9424. Follow him on Twitter @davidbkennard.



Title: **Prayer a good first option in times of extreme crisis**
 Author: BY VALENTINE WILLIAMS For the Independent
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Prayer a good first option in times of extreme crisis

BY VALENTINE WILLIAMS

For the Independent

The wind and the rain have subsided. More accurately, the wind and rain that were the consequence of Hurricane Matthew are gone.

We are experiencing the calm after the storm. And people are beginning to assess damages, fix and repair property, and try to get their lives in order again.

As I write there is brilliant sunshine on the outside. The temperature is ideal fall weather, not too hot and not too cold, as we would say. But there are other things that command our attention than the present good weather.

From news reports and from individuals with whom I have spoken personally, property loss and damage has been extensive; but at a news conference on Sunday morning Gov. Nikki Haley said that there was only one known death at that time that was attributable to the storm. That could change later, but we hope not.

While we feel a sense of loss for the many affected by property loss and damage we are extremely grateful that more lives were not lost. Other states and other places were not as fortunate.

Our sister state, North Carolina suffered multiple losses of life, as many as eight, according to one media report late Sun-

day afternoon. By the time this newspaper reaches you there will be a more accurate count. The damages and loss of lives in Haiti was horrific. When we consider our own situation we have much to be thankful for.

In the midst of all of this tragedy and upheaval in the lives of so many, spread across such a wide expanse of land encompassing so many countries and states, thoughtful men and women undoubtedly will pause to ask themselves important questions that burn inside of them.

But before we engage thoughtful men and women, we know that there are others who will just count this and other similar experiences as just the product of nature, end of discussion. In other words, nature is an entity to itself, controlled by no other greater entity and responsive to no other greater power. Creation is lord, and we are at its mercy.

But not all thoughtful men and women think that way. For ex-

ample, the governor asked that we pray. Why pray? Obviously we are not praying to blind force nor are we praying to mother nature.

There is a sense by many that there is a greater power than mother nature, a greater power than the creation itself to whom we can appeal and who has authority over the winds and the waves and rain.

Some of us would even dare say that power resides in a person, and we call that person God. Even more, many of us would say, we have a personal relationship with this God, so when the Governor says pray, we pray; and we pray with confidence. We really believe that he has power over wind, rain, and storms. And not just atmospheric storms but those other kinds of storms that invade personal and family lives and ravage us.

What works when there is a physical storm can work for other kinds of storms. The storms that are still creating conflicts in our country, the storms that divide a nation, the storms that are creating chaos in communities, the storms during this presidential season that leave many people worried about the future of our country.

It is not the only solution to the problem, but Gov. Haley's

call to pray would seem like a necessary first step to calm the political, racial, ideological and other storms that are ravaging our nation and refuse to leave our land and head offshore.

With Matthew, we didn't just pray, we took necessary precautions, likewise in the face of these other storms we need to take necessary steps. But even here, prayer gives wisdom, prayer creates openness, and through prayer we can get the direction we need, discern the best steps, and we can tap the power that controls the winds, the waves, the rains and the storms that threaten to destroy, not just property, but our lives and communities.

My greatest sympathy goes out to my reading audience during this difficult time. I pray that those who have been affected severely will find the strength to repair, restore or replace damaged property, the patience to endure under difficult circumstances, and the means and wisdom to face the challenges ahead of you, and most of all, love enough to reach out and help someone else, even during your moments of challenge.

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Wise Words

**Valentine
Williams**

Title: **Coach Dawn Staley visits Bamberg**

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Coach Dawn Staley visits Bamberg



Photo - J. Halmon

USC Women's head basketball coach Dawn Staley paid a visit to the RCES with Gov. Nikki Haley recently as part of Coach Staley's INNERSOLE Program that uses high end basketball shoes as an incentive for kids to read more and do good in school. With college basketball now only a few weeks away no doubt Coach Staley's full attention will be getting the Lady Gamecocks back to the Final Four where last year they fell just short of winning that elusive national championship. Coach Staley, who was an Olympic basketball player in college, was also an assistant coach to the 2016 USA Olympic team that won the Gold Medal.