

Title: **S.C. farmers are facing significant crop losses**
 Author: BY RODDIE BURRIS rburris@thestate.com
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'SIMILAR CHALLENGES TO (2015) FLOODING'

S.C. farmers are facing significant crop losses

BY RODDIE BURRIS

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Significant losses to the state's cotton crop and moderate losses to the soybean crop are expected as a result of Hurricane Matthew, state agriculture officials said Tuesday.

And while many peanut farmers had made harvests prior to the storm's punch, more than half the state's peanut buying locations are without power, so that crop's storage needs could soon be impacted, the agriculture department said.

In addition, future harvests of high-value fall fruits and vegetables will be impacted, the department said, though farmers were able to extract their initial harvests.

State Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers and South Carolina Forestry Association Executive Director Cam Crawford did an initial damage assessment Monday that included a flyover of areas in the Pee Dee impacted by the hurricane.

"Farmers are facing very similar challenges to

last October's flooding, and this natural disaster will be another significant setback to our state's No. 1 industry," Weathers said.

Hurricane Matthew's foray into the state came almost on the anniversary of last year's October flood, and affected many of the same areas even as those farmers were still trying to recover, state officials said.

Jeremy Cannon, a fourth-generation farmer in Turbeville, last year was an outspoken advocate for state relief for farmers whose crops were wiped out by the October flood. Cannon lost his cotton, soybean and tobacco crops to the destruction.

"We actually had more flooding locally than we had during the flood," Cannon said. Water in the fields rose faster and in a shorter period of time than during the flood, he said, but also receded faster.

In May, the Legislature overrode Gov. Nikki Haley's veto of \$40 million

in state aid for farmers.

One of the biggest problems from the hurricane will be the cotton crop, 90 percent or more of which remain in the fields, he said, and about 40 percent of which had been defoliated in preparation for harvesting. With the crop missing the protection of the leaves, high winds from the hurricane blew cotton right out of the bolls, Cannon said.

"For that cotton east of Sumter, and certainly that east of Interstate 95 that was defoliated, it took a big hit," said Cannon, who estimated the loss to the cotton crop at about 50 to 60 percent. Peanuts may fare better, he suggested, if they hadn't been dug and did not lay under water for days.

Damages will become clearer over the next couple of weeks when farmers are able to get back in the fields.

"We were fairly fortunate," said Holly Hill farmer Dean Hutto, who

received about 13 inches of rain from the hurricane. "But it's gotten off really well and the sunshine has been very much welcome."

One of the biggest problems after last year's historic flood was the days of lingering rainfall and a continued damp, dreary environment that denied crops the chance to dry out, Hutto recalled.

Hutto, who farms about 3,700 acres of cotton, soybeans, corn, wheat, and peanuts, said he finished harvesting all his peanuts, picked about half his cotton crop and gathered all his early soybeans that would have been damaged or destroyed in the storm the day before the hurricane hit South Carolina.

Farmers are encouraged to complete Clemson University's online damage assessment form to aid officials in determining the full impact of the hurricane. The form is available online at: clemson.edu/public/emergency.

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MATT WALSH mwals@thestate.com

A flooded soybean field in the Pee Dee's Fork Retch community.

Title: **Haley acted correctly in advance of storm**
 Author: By The Herald Editorial Board
 Size: 35.03 column inches
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OUR VIEW

Haley acted correctly in advance of storm

By The Herald Editorial Board

Many coastal evacuees who drove farther and farther north vainly looking for a motel room no doubt were upset with Gov. Nikki Haley when Hurricane Matthew finally headed out to sea. They were thinking, "I could have stayed home, ridden out the storm and saved myself a lot of worry and expense."

While thousands of South Carolinians followed the governor's orders to evacuate coastal communities that might have taken a direct hit from Matthew, many others decided to stay put. And most of them undoubtedly concluded that they had made the right choice.

But in all fairness, they need to ask themselves what might have happened if they hadn't been so lucky, if Matthew had swerved slightly westward and slammed directly into the South Carolina coastline as a category 3 hurricane. The damage would have been far more severe and the death toll possibly much higher.

With that in mind, we commend Gov. Haley for declaring a state of emergency and ordering evacuations early. When she did so on Tuesday, the path of Matthew was hard to predict – as is always the case with hurricanes – but forecasters said it could be as dangerous as

any the South Atlantic coast has seen in years.

Haley not only ordered coastal residents to leave but also ordered the closing of schools and government offices. State officials reversed lanes on Interstate 26 and other highways near the coast around mid-afternoon Wednesday to facilitate the mass evacuations, avoiding a repeat of the epic traffic jam that occurred when Hurricane Floyd threatened the state in 1999.

As Matthew lumbered toward the coast, South Carolina was prepared for the worst. Hundreds of National Guard troops, including units from Rock Hill, Fort Mill, Chester and Lancaster, were dispatched to Charleston and other seaside communities to help with whatever emergencies might arise.

Relief agencies were prepared to provide food, shelter and supplies to anyone displaced by the storm. Red Cross crews were sent to Columbia and cities along the coast to assist if needed.

Upstate schools sent buses to Charleston to help with the evacuation. Volunteer workers with power companies prepared to rush to the coast and help restore power in communities hit by the storm.

The York County Board

of Disabilities and Special Needs hosted 30 hurricane evacuees with special needs from Dorchester County during the storm.

In the end, states along the East Coast from Florida to Virginia were spared the worst potential devastation Hurricane Matthew might have wrought. But it still was a consequential storm, wiping out roads and homes close to the water, causing widespread flooding, knocking out power for hundreds of thousands of residents, toppling trees and, ultimately, taking lives.

Matthew was responsible for at least 26 deaths, some who were crushed by falling trees, more who drowned in flood waters. While South Carolina dodged widespread wind damage, flooding remains a problem, and in North Carolina, the water in swollen creeks and rivers has yet to crest.

Yes, the ordered evacuation was an inconvenience for thousands. Many of those who fled could safely have stayed home.

Nonetheless, we think it was smart to err on the side of caution and do what was necessary to bring about an orderly evacuation before the hurricane hit. Under the circumstances, Gov. Haley made the right choice.

Title: **AfterMatthew: Some inS.C.haven't seen this,others know ittoowell**
 Author: BY MEGKINNARD Associated Press
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FLOODING

After Matthew: Some in S.C. haven't seen this, others know it too well

BY MEG KINNARD

Associated Press

NICHOLS

To Natalie McDowell, whose family has lived in Nichols for three generations, the flooding from Hurricane Matthew that swamped the Marion County hamlet is like nothing in memory.

But Rawlings LaMotte knows it all too well. The Columbia resident was in Nichols on Tuesday checking on his mother-in-law's house and helping others get around when the only way to do so was by boat.

He did the same thing just over a year ago in a Columbia subdivision when flooding from a 1,000-year storm inundated the state's capital city.

As South Carolina slowly recovered from Matthew on Tuesday, President Barack Obama declared 13 counties disaster areas, opening the way for federal aid to help local governments and state agencies recover from the storm. Aid for individuals is not now included.

Residents of Hilton Head Island finally got to

FROM PAGE 5A

FLOOD

to rescue some more belongings. "Luckily we had a little bit of warning. Some people had none."

Water has risen throughout the small community's downtown with a square with a couple of churches and public buildings and a main street with graceful homes with verandas, one owned by

return to their homes four days after the storm and about 290,000 electric customers around the state remained in the dark.

Gov. Nikki Haley said South Carolina has gone from battling a hurricane to dealing with flooding and warned the flood threat, especially in the Pee Dee, may not ease for days.

In Nichols, about 10 miles from the North Carolina line, McDowell, her husband Tim and two sons, ages 10 and 14 were having a late lunch Sunday after Matthew was headed to sea and thought they had safely weathered a storm that had dropped 15 inches of rain in the area.

"We were fine from the storm. There was no water," she recalled Tuesday.

That's why what happened next was so unexpected.

In only 45 minutes the Lumber River more than a mile away rose so quickly the water covered the driveway of their modest ranch house north of

town. Just over an hour after that they grabbed some belongings and drove to the nearby hospital where they both work, spending the night with their family in two unoccupied patient rooms.

This week about 150 people from Nichols, a community of only 400, were rescued from rising waters. On Tuesday the

National Guard had closed all roads leading to the small business district where buildings stood in several feet of water.

The water was over the porch and almost to the bottom window sill of the McDowell home.

"I've just never seen anything like this" McDowell said as she and her husband returned by boat

SEE FLOOD, 6A

“

I'VE JUST NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS. LUCKILY WE HAD A LITTLE BIT OF WARNING. SOME PEOPLE HAD NONE.

Natalie McDowell, whose family has lived in Nichols for three generations

LaMotte's mother-in-law.

He drove to Nichols on Tuesday to check on the home which had standing water inside. He also helped others who needed

to get around just as he

did a year ago for residents in the flooded Kings Grant subdivision in suburban Columbia.

"You have thousands of

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people in Columbia ready to help each other. Nobody has even heard of Nichols," he said.

Now people in Nichols can only wait for the Lumber River to fall, something they hope will happen by Friday.

Returning to her house Tuesday reassured McDo-well that her children's baby pictures, which she had left on the upper shelf of a closet, had survived the flood. The water had fallen a bit from Monday.

Despite her family's loss, she was thinking of others.

"So many other people have it so much worse than we do," she said.

In North Carolina

N.C Highway Patrol identifies trooper in shooting

The N.C. Highway Patrol has identified the trooper who shot and killed a man who they say confronted him and other law enforcement officers as they searched for people trapped by flood waters.

A statement released by the patrol Tuesday said Sgt. J.F. Hinson and two members of the Robeson County Sheriff's Office were conducting a search and rescue

operation in Lumberton on Monday. Lt. Jeff Gordon said the three officers encountered a man who became hostile toward the officers and displayed a handgun.

Gordon said Hinson saw the gun and shot the man.

Hinson is a 13-year veteran assigned to Troop B, Lumberton patrol office in Robeson County. Gordon said Hinson has been placed on administrative leave pending an internal investigation, which is standard operating procedure in any shooting involving the patrol. The State Bureau of Investigation is conducting the investigation.

McCrorey: More flooding

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory warns that parts of the state are about to face flooding left by Hurricane Matthew.

McCrory said in a news conference in Raleigh on Tuesday that flooding is expected to create big problems for the rest of this week in Greenville, Rocky Mount and Goldsboro.

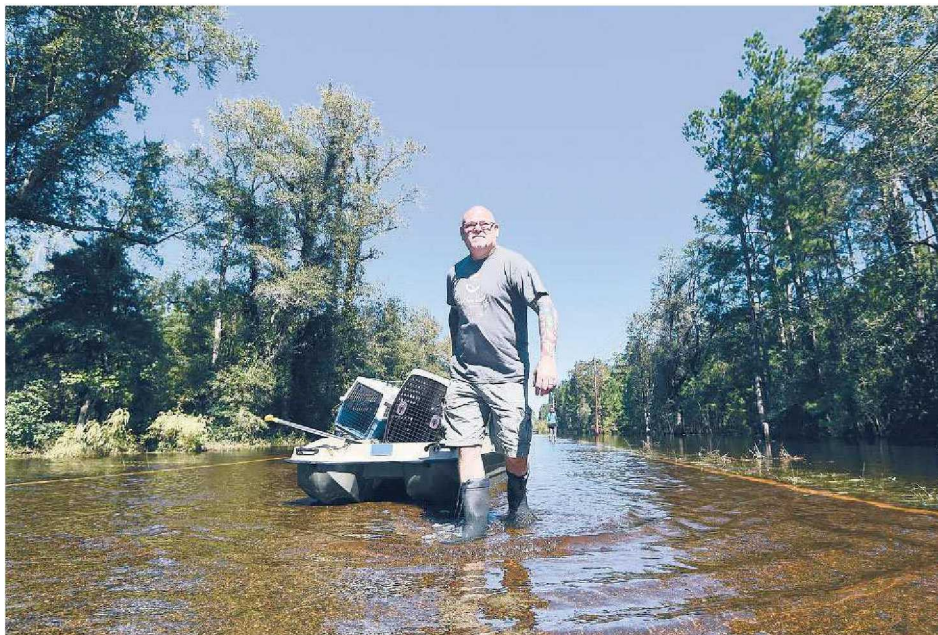
McCrory said crews have rescued more than 2,000 people in more than 600 rescue operations already. He said most of those have been in Cumberland and Robeson counties.

More than 1,000 National Guardsmen are assisting state and local law enforcement and emergency responders.

All ferries have returned to normal operations with the exception of the Hatteras-Ocracoke run. But McCrory said N.C. 12 is closed at the Bonner Bridge. The storm caused some damage in the equipment being used in the construction of the replacement bridge.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RAINIER EHRHARDT AP

Tom Chickos, of Asheville, N.C. with Brother Wolf Animal Rescue, pulls a boat with kennels down S.C. 9 on Tuesday in Nichols.



RAINIER EHRHARDT AP

A welcome sign is submerged in floodwaters in front of the Nichols Methodist Church on Tuesday.

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RAINIER EHRHARDT AP

Natalie McDowell, left, speaks with Rawlings LaMotte as she walks to her flooded home on Tuesday in Nichols. About 150 people were rescued by boats from flooding in the riverside village on Monday.

Title: **HiltonHead reopens, despite some objections**
 Author: BY ERIN HEFFERNAN eheffernan@islandpacket.com
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Hilton Head reopens, despite some objections

■ In Hilton Head's gated communities, many residents were advised to stay away until Wednesday or later.

BY ERIN HEFFERNAN
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Hilton Head Island reopened Tuesday afternoon, and thousands returned home — despite objections from some Hilton Head neighborhood leaders who said they were not yet ready for residents to return so soon after Hurricane Matthew.

While there was about an hour wait to get across the bridge at the start of the 3 p.m. re-entry process, traffic soon began to flow with no backups reported on any of the island's major arteries, according to Bob Bromage, spokesman for the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office.

Some residents reached the island only to find their homes inaccessible and many secondary roads impassable because of fallen trees and standing water.

Christine Wilkins returned to her Folly Field home to find a large tree lying on her car. It was the first time she had been home since last Wednesday's mandatory evacuation order issued by

Gov. Nikki Haley.

"How are we going to get that off?" she said, shaking her head and she stared up at the large tree.

"I have no idea," said her neighbor Gina Hunt, who returned to her home with tears in her eyes and three shaken cats in her car.

The lower level of Hunt's home was flooded with about two feet of water.

In Hilton Head's gated communities, many residents were advised to stay away until Wednesday or later. Leaders at Sea Pines, Palmetto Hall and Hilton Head Plantation advised town leaders that they were not ready for residents because of fallen trees blocking roads, flooding and limited utilities. In Sea Pines, for example, 57 secondary roads were blocked from traffic during the day and many homes had no power.

"Re-entry means we have to deal with all the residents that are coming onto the property and inhibit the work that we are doing to get things

clear," said Peter Kristian, general manager of Hilton Head Plantation. "Many of them are going to be without services. Many are not going to be able to get back to their homes. And then they're going to have to find somewhere to go."

Still, some returning residents fared better than anyone expected.

Jack Daly, a South Forrest Beach resident and owner of the Frozen Moo ice cream store in Coligny Plaza, knew his house sustained no major damage thanks to an update from a neighbor. But Daly was worried about the ice cream left at his store.

"The power went out, so I was scared," Daly said. "But I went and checked, and most of the ice cream was still frozen somehow. We're opening tomorrow! Hopefully some other businesses open soon. People want some sense of normalcy and to get an idea that their home is still there."

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Title: **Flooding unexpected for some**
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HURRICANE MATTHEW

Flooding unexpected for some

Associated Press

NICHOLS

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But Rawlings LaMotte knows it all too well. The Columbia resident was in Nichols on Tuesday checking on his mother-in-law's house and helping others get around when the only way to do so was by boat.

He did the same thing just over a year ago in a Columbia subdivision when flooding from a 1,000-year storm inundated the state's capital

city.

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pened next was so unexpected.

In only 45 minutes the Lumber River more than a mile away rose so quickly the water covered the driveway of their modest ranch house north of town. Just over an hour after that they grabbed some belongings and drove to the nearby hospital where they both work, spending the night with their family in two unoccupied patient rooms.

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several feet of water.

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"I've just never seen anything like this" McDowell said as she and her husband returned by boat to rescue some more belongings. "Luckily we had a little bit of warning. Some people had none."

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RAINIER EHRHARDT AP

A National Guard high-water vehicle drives through Nichols on Tuesday. About 150 people were rescued by boats from flooding in the riverside village of Nichols on Monday.

Title: **Hurricanebaby born after young parents evacuated**
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BY DAVID LAUDERDALE

Hurricane baby born after young parents evacuated

Matthew Pooser's Hurricane Matthew story has a biblical plot.

He evacuated from Hilton Head Island to the land of his upbringing with his wife, Lee, great with child.

And it came to pass that they had a hurricane baby.

Annslee Carlyle Pooser was born in a hospital in Huntersville, N.C., at 8:17 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7.

She checked into this world at 7 pounds 6 ounces at the same time Hurricane Matthew started knocking in earnest on their door back home in Heritage Woods in Sea Pines.

Tuesday morning, as the couple prepared to take the baby to an unknown pediatrician for her first check-

FROM PAGE 3A

BABY

"I think it was the not knowing about what was to come," Matthew said. And it was a concern for the fate of his video games.

They all loaded into the Ford Explorer, with food and water in case they got stuck in traffic: the father, the mother great with child, two boys and two 3-year-old rescue dogs, Doc and Cash.

up, the Poosers still did not know how their house fared in the hurricane.

But the hurricane baby who arrived right on her due date was just fine.

"This is going to be one heck of a story in a few years," Lee said.

It started brewing a week before the evacuation. Matthew started worrying when he saw models of Hurricane Matthew put Hilton Head in its path.

On Tuesday, Oct. 4, they had their scheduled visit with their obstetrician.

That's the day Gov. Nikki Haley warned everyone on the coast that they'd need to flee by 3 p.m. the next day.

The doctor laid out a

couple of options.

They could check into the hospital immediately. They could induce labor. And they'd have a baby in hand for the evacuation.

Or, they could evacuate and find a room near a hospital.

The Poosers opted to head to a friend's house in North Carolina, near where she grew up in Mooresville and he grew up in Cornelius.

Evacuation was new to them. They moved to the island in June. He checked whether their insurance was good in North Carolina, and they opted to leave Tuesday night as lines started snaking from every local gas station.

When the two boys — Stephen Gaskins, 12, and

Peyton Gaskins, 10 — got home from school, they heard the plan.

"How come you didn't tell me we had a Category 4 hurricane coming at us?" one asked, starting to cry.

SEE BABY, 4A

By the time they got to Columbia, Lee was having contractions. And they hit a backup in traffic due to nighttime roadwork on the freeway.

Matthew was fretting and Lee, who has been a nurse, was timing the contractions.

She was grabbing her stomach, but insisting they press on.

"We had heard that a

change in barometric pressure could do that," she said later. "And it could have been the stress and anxiety."

The arrived north of Charlotte between 1 and 2 a.m. Wednesday.

"We all held it together," Matthew said.

Two days later, Lee's water broke.

Now the oldest brother is "smitten," she said. The

younger one is overly excited.

And as Lee ponders these things in her heart, she says, "Hurricane Matthew brought us pretty much back home. It was actually nice to be here with family and more friends."

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Title: **Hurricanebaby born after young parents evacuated**

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Submitted

Annslee Carlyle Pooser

Title: **Somemaynothave power until nextweek**
 Author: BY LUCASHIGH lhigh@islandpacket.com
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BEAUFORT COUNTY

Some may not have power until next week

■ About 40,000 Beaufort County residents remained without power Tuesday afternoon. That figure is down from the roughly 73,000 Palmetto Electric Cooperative and SCE&G customers who were in the dark Sunday night. Some SCE&G customers may not have power restored until next week.

BY LUCAS HIGH
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About 40,000 Beaufort County residents spent Tuesday without power, and some of them could remain in the dark for another week.

Crews with SCE&G and Palmetto Electric Cooperative worked through the weekend to repair lines in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, but thousands of locals throughout the county remain affected.

SCE&G expects to have power restoration in Beaufort County "substantially complete" by Oct. 17, according to the utility's website.

However, because access to some areas is limited, "the outages on Daufuskie Island, Fripp Island and Hunting Island could potentially exceed this estimated time of restoration," the site said.

As of late Tuesday after-

noon, the utility had more than 20,000 local customers without power. Palmetto Electric reported more than 16,000 outages.

● Most businesses and homes in Bluffton have power, but portions of the Heritage at New Riverside, Heritage Lakes, and Hidden Lakes neighborhoods are still in the dark. There are also reports of outages in neighborhoods near Bluffton Middle

School, as well as streets around Alljoy Road and Fernlakes Drive. Some outages have been reported in Old Town, including in the area of Thomas Heyward Street.

● On Hilton Head Island, thousands remain in the dark. However, reports Tuesday indicate that power in portions of North

SEE POWER, 4A

FROM PAGE 3A

POWER

Forest Beach, Hilton Head Plantation, Wexford Plantation and Palmetto Dunes has been restored. Most of the homes in Palmetto Hall are without power as are homes in Spanish Wells Plantation. Power is also reportedly spotty in the Long Cove area.

● Power remains spotty north of the Broad River. Most of Port Royal is out of power, as well as the Mossy Oaks, Bellevue Circle, Mink Point Boule-

vard, and Shell Park Circle areas of Beaufort. Some streets off Parris Island Gateway are also reportedly powerless. Many Lady's Island neighborhoods, including Tidewater Creek Drive, pockets of Royal Pines and streets near the Beaufort County Airport, are also without power. Electricity remains off in areas near Orange Grove Road and in parts of the Coffin Point area of St. Helena Island.

Power has been restored to many of the businesses along Sams Point Road.

● There were reports Tuesday that vast swaths of Hardeeville and Levy remain without power.

According to a message posted Tuesday to Palmetto Electric's Facebook page, crews were working in a number of areas around the county. Those included numerous locations in and around Bluffton and on Hilton Head Island.

Lack of power played a major role in the Beaufort County School District's decision to close schools until Monday, district spokesman Jim Foster said.

There were still six schools without power as of late Tuesday, down from a dozen on Monday, he said.

Title: **Somemaynothave power until nextweek**
 Author: BY LUCASHIGH lhigh@islandpacket.com
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Gov. Nikki Haley said as of Tuesday afternoon there were still nearly 300,000 residents statewide without power.

While normal water service has been restored to most of the county,

there is a boil advisory in effect for drinking water on Hilton Head Island.

While there appears to be no evidence of water contamination, "the Hilton Head Public Service District advises its cus-

tomers to vigorously boil their water for at least one full minute prior to drinking or cooking," according to a news release from the Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority.

A previous boil advisory for St. Helena Island, Cat

Island, Cane Island, Distant Island, Warsaw Island and Vivian's Island was lifted Tuesday, according to the water authority.

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An electrical crew replaces a power pole on Ribaut Road at North Street on Saturday in Beaufort.



JAY KARR jkarr@islandpacket.com

A row of power poles were knocked down by Hurricane Matthew along Spanish Wells Road near Sassafras Lane on Hilton Head Island.

Title: **Obamadeclares Beaufort County adisaster area**
 Author: BY WADE LIVINGSTON wlivingston@islandpacket.com
 Size: 24.8 column inches
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Obama declares Beaufort County a disaster area

BY WADE LIVINGSTON
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Beaufort is among 13 South Carolina counties declared a federal disaster area by President Barack Obama after the winds and rains of Hurricane Matthew pummeled the state.

Gov. Nikki Haley announced Tuesday that the order allows federal aid to help local and state recovery efforts in counties most severely affected by Hurricane Matthew.

"It means to me that someone's paying attention," Beaufort Mayor Billy Keyserling said Tuesday evening.

"We have a lot of people who are sort of wandering around needing attention," he continued, rattling off questions citizens

have about home repairs, insurance, drinking water, sewers and

FROM PAGE 1A

STORM

ments would help the town move forward on some of its initiatives, especially those that involve the island's private communities and roads.

"We'll be able to get some of that money back," he said, "and reinvest it in the community."

Attempts early Tuesday evening to reach Beaufort County Administrator Gary Kubic and Hilton Head Mayor David Bennett were unsuccessful.

The declaration applies

getting back to work. "Hopefully what this means is that resources will come available to help the community answer some of these questions and provide help to citizens that are most needy."

The declaration allows the federal government to reimburse local governments, state agencies, some nonprofit organizations and electric cooperatives for some expenses incurred after the storm. Disaster aid is not currently available for individuals.

"The president's declaration came very quickly," Hilton Head Island Town Manager Steve Riley said. "And we're glad for that."

Riley said federal reimburse-

SEE STORM, 7A

to Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton and Darlington counties. Other counties covered include Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Jasper, Marion and Williamsburg.

"It's a good thing," Keyserling said. "It's well accepted, and I hope we take good advantage of it and manage whatever resources are available wisely."

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Title: **Inland havens in N.C. watched in shock as waters rose**

Author: BY JESS BIDGOOD, LIZETTE ALVAREZ AND CAMPBELL ROBERTSON New York Times News Service

Size: 91.14 column inches

Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



Inland havens in N.C. watched in shock as waters rose

BY JESS BIDGOOD,
LIZETTE ALVAREZ AND
CAMPBELL ROBERTSON

New York Times News Service

CERRO GORDO, N.C.

Diamond Hansen and Darryl Clark rented a room in a Super 8 for a month, hoping it was a springboard to a fresh start in Myrtle Beach. Then the evacuation order came for Hurricane Matthew, so they climbed into Clark's Volvo and drove to a place that seemed safe, his uncle's house well inland in rural North Carolina. But it was far from the haven they expected.

Over the weekend, after the storm dropped torrential rain, the water rose

waist-high outside the uncle's Fair Bluff house and the couple evacuated again, this time by boat.

"My car is flooded,

FROM PAGE 3C

SHOCK

Some local governments ordered residents to evacuate, and rivers were predicted to remain high for days.

"This storm is still impacting people in a big way," said Gov. Pat McCrory, who surveyed hurricane damage on Monday in Fayetteville. "You have to see it to believe all the devastation that has occurred."

Since the poorly planned evacuation of New Orleans

water clear over the top," Clark, 38, said at a shelter in a high school here. "It kind of hurt a little bit," he added. "But you can't get mad with God."

Some higher power may know exactly where hurricanes are going, but even with modern technology, humans have to guess. As countless residents and public officials learned in the last few days, this makes the question of evacuations — whether or when to flee, who is in danger and who is safe — an extraordinarily complicated call, and one particularly vulnerable to second-guessing.

"You've got to balance

as Hurricane Katrina approached in 2005, when thousands were left stranded, cities and counties have increasingly developed detailed evacuation plans. Such plans were put into action last week from Florida up through the Carolinas, as millions were ordered by state officials to leave coastal areas.

Gov. Rick Scott of Florida repeatedly urged people to evacuate, warning of a potentially catastroph-

ic storm. the issue of crying wolf, and whether people will pay attention the next time if the storm does not strike, with the potential for harm," said Jim Hodges, a former governor of South Carolina, who was criticized for not being more forceful in ordering evacuations ahead of Hurricane Floyd in 1999. "You have to consider the economic issues, but I will say that the scales are tilted very heavily in favor of public safety."

Flooding worsened on Monday in a waterlogged area of North Carolina south of Raleigh as the authorities scrambled to rescue people in Lumberton and numerous other

cities faced rising waters.

More than two dozen people have been rescued by helicopter since the storm hit over the weekend, state officials said.

The storm left at least 15 people dead in North Carolina, officials said. Unconfirmed estimates of deaths in Haiti have been as high as 1,000.

The authorities in North Carolina feared that swollen rivers would continue to rise, and the National Weather Service reported major flooding in more than a dozen areas, including Goldsboro, Rocky Mount and Manchester.

SEE SHOCK, 7C

were stunned after the areas were hit with more than a foot of rain and floodwaters coursed the street. A few were irate and wished they had been evacuated.

"Friday, we go get a pack of ham and a loaf of bread," said Robbie Chavis, 50, a resident of the Back Swamp area of Lumberton, where by Sunday roads had turned to ponds, farmland to streams, and neighbor-

ic storm.

In South Carolina, Gov. Nikki Haley opted to start evacuations four days before the storm.

In North Carolina, which faced an already weakened hurricane, places far from the ocean like Lumberton or Fair Bluff seemed unlikely to be danger zones and in need of evacuations. But on Monday, some residents, awash in flooding from the Lumberton River,

Title: **Inland havens in N.C. watched in shock as waters rose**
 Author: BY JESS BIDGOOD, LIZETTE ALVAREZ AND CAMPBELL ROBERTSON New York Times News Service
 Size: 91.14 column inches
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hoods into series of houses or trailers separated by canals. "We had no warning about this."

Worried but helpless, Debra Holiday, 65, said her 91-year-old mother was stuck at home. "Her house is surrounded by water," she said.

"My sister's car is underwater," Holiday added. "She's been here 91 years, and she says she's never seen it like this."

Officials say the decisions to evacuate can be extremely difficult.

"There's no handbook or manual that tells you, 'If this happens, evacuate this,'" said Mayor Lenny Curry of Jacksonville, Fla. He added that evacuating the areas closest to the St. Johns River was obvious but that it was a harder call for communities slightly farther away.

Some experts worry that a lull in hurricanes hitting

the state over the past decade could breed false complacency. But many Floridians disagree.

"I've been through five or six evacuations," said David R. Nelson, 54, who drove on Friday from Cape Canaveral to a shelter in an Orlando middle school. Dramatic warnings by government officials can be tiresome, he acknowledged. That does not mean he was going to ignore them.

"Let's say nothing happens and people say they exaggerated," Nelson said. "But they were in the right. Nobody has a crystal ball."



MIKE SPENCER AP

A swiftwater rescue team makes its way on Monday down a street covered by floodwaters caused by rain from Hurricane Matthew in Lumberton, N.C.

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People displaced by floodwaters caused by rain from Hurricane Matthew look through donated clothing on Tuesday at the Bill Sapp Recreation Center in Lumberton, N.C.

Title: **Thirteen counties are declared disaster areas**
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Thirteen counties are declared disaster areas

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA — President Barack Obama has declared 13 counties in South Carolina federal disaster areas after the winds and rains of Hurricane Matthew pummeled the state.

Gov. Nikki Haley announced Tuesday that the order allows federal aid to help local and state recovery efforts in counties most severely affected by Hurricane Matthew. The declaration allows the federal government to reimburse local govern-

ments, state agencies, some nonprofit organizations and electric cooperatives for some expenses they have incurred after the storm. Disaster aid is not currently available for individuals.

The declaration applies to Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton and Darlington counties. Other counties covered include Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Jasper, Marion, and Williamsburg.