



Title: **Floodwaters cause confusion, miscommunication**
 Author: By Max Hrenda mhrenda@southstrandnews.com
 Size: 112.37 square inch
 Georgetown, SC Circulation: 8446

Floodwaters cause confusion, miscommunication

By MAX HRENDA

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Even though the torrential rains that caused historic flooding in South Carolina came to an end earlier this week, Georgetown County faces a new peril as those flood waters recede into the ocean.

As of Thursday afternoon,

however, state and local authorities disagreed on just how perilous those flood waters could be.

In a televised press conference on Thursday, Oct. 8, Gov. Nikki Haley seemed to encourage residents of

Georgetown, Pawleys Island and Jamestown to evacuate as flood waters from the Midlands began to descend on the county through the river system.

Haley advised area rivers were expected crest within a 12-hour period and flood

waters could linger for up to 12 days. Here is her full statement:

"In the next 12 hours, Georgetown will start to flood. It will get worse and it's going to last up to 12 days.

See FLOOD, Page 6A

Floodwaters cause confusion

FROM PAGE 1A

So this is an area that, if you are in the area of Georgetown, you are going to see people coming and knocking on your doors telling you to get out. Please take precaution. Please do what you need to do. It will be up to 12 days that that water will sit. So it is not going to do what it did before where it receded. This water is going to stay. So if you are in that area, the next 12 hours, that is our number one priority as we go forward." Within minutes of Haley's press conference, however, local authorities began minimizing Haley's report. Georgetown County Emergency Management District Manager Sam Hodge released his own video statement in which he said the county was focused on three particular areas, as opposed to the area, as a whole.

"There are three areas of concern we have ... the Black River, the Mingo Creek area and the Pee Dee River," Hodge said. "If you live along any of those three rivers, you just need to be very vigilant of your surroundings and what the water and flooding

is doing specifically to your location."

In addition to those three areas, the county also offered emergency transportation services for residents of the Dunbar and Oatland communities, which were cut off from area roads by flood waters. As of Thursday afternoon, however, Hodge indicated there was no suggested evacuations for the areas Haley indicated in her press conference.

"There's no need to evacuate all of Georgetown County ... or the town of Pawleys Island, city of Andrews or city of Georgetown," he said.

National Guard Maj. Gen. Robert Livingston later confirmed that "There are no state-issued evacuations anywhere in South Carolina at this time" on Thursday afternoon.

A county press release issued after Haley's press conference declared the governor "misspoke" in recommending evacuations for those areas. State Rep. Carl Anderson, D-Georgetown, earlier had reinforced that statement in an interview with The Georgetown Times in which he said he thought Haley had been misinformed

in making that recommendation.

"The governor has not spoken with me, but I just got off the phone with ... Sel Hemingway, our county administrator, and (what the governor said) that's not the case," Anderson said. "It appears that someone handed the governor a note and she apparently went by the note handed to her. But that is not the case with Georgetown. We are trying to diffuse this all we can. ...

"I would just say that the governor put out for everyone to get out of Georgetown is not fact. The governor has been doing a good job, but I think this was just misinformation given to her."

Although Georgetown County Public Information Officer Jackie Broach said she did not think the conflicting information put the county's position "at odds" with the Haley's, she later added, in an email communication, "The governor was mistaken."

Despite the prospect of additional flooding, however, many homes and residents were already reeling from the rising river levels.

Times contributor Eileen

Keithly reported that flooding was so severe in parts of Andrews that rescue workers and residents alike were relegated to boat travel to access certain points of the town. Some Andrews residents were forced to flee after flood waters almost submerged their homes.

At 1:02 p.m. Thursday, the National Weather Service station in Wilmington, North Carolina, issued a flood warning for areas near the Black River in Georgetown and Williamsburg counties. NWS reported the river would rise an additional 1 to 2 feet before its crests, which meteorologists estimated would occur on Saturday. In addition to Andrews, NWS predicted the areas of Oatland and Warsaw would also experience rising river levels.

On Thursday morning, Murrells Inlet resident Brooke Cox traveled to her sister's Andrews home on County Line Road after it flooded. The day before, she said, she and her relatives went by boat to her parent's river home on Candlewood Drive, almost one mile from Browns Ferry Park, after the Black River rose to the point where it entered the house.

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"We never thought the water would reach the house," Cox said. "The water is 75 feet away and we have a 5-foot seawall. ... But we had to take a pontoon boat up to the house ... and there was 2 to 3 feet of water in the house ... at 4 (p.m. Wednesday)."

Cox said she and her relatives stayed for about three more hours collecting clothing, photos and other personal effects, during which time the water rose another 6 inches inside the house. Although her home in Murrells Inlet escaped serious

damage in the weather event, Cox said she was "devastated" upon seeing the state of Andrews, her hometown.

"It's a devastating situation," she said. "It's hard to put into ... perspective until you actually see it for yourself. This is a place I call

home, and it's a very, very sad situation."

For more information on areas affected by flooding, or to report flooding or request aid, residents are advised to contact the county's Disaster Call Center at 843-545-3273.



PHOTO BY MARILYNN LANCE

Two men navigate their way across Mae Place in the Dunbar community Wednesday afternoon.



To see more flood coverage, go to southstrandnews.com.

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PHOTO BY MARILYNN LANCE

Cars, trucks, trees and homes are deluged in flood water on Linen Loop.

Title: **To our emergency responders, we say, 'Hip! Hip! Hooray!'**
 Author:
 Size: 28.05 square inch
 Georgetown, SC Circulation: 11000



To our emergency responders, we say, 'Hip! Hip! Hooray!'

Every time the rain came over these past few days, it seemed as if an A.A. Milne tale was coming to life.

Do you remember how it went? *"It rained and it rained and it rained. Piglet told himself that never in all his life ... had he seen so much rain. Days and days and days. ... It went on raining, and every day the water got a little higher."*

But it wasn't a story. It was all too real.

Days upon days of intermittent – and, at times, torrential – rains fell not only on the South Strand but all over South Carolina. Gov. Nikki Haley has referred to it as a 1,000-year flood. If that conjures up images of Biblical proportions, it certainly seemed that way at times.

And throughout all this, there were emergency responders out keeping the rest of us safe here in Georgetown County. There were doctors and nurses and support staff

Editorial

on duty at Georgetown County's two hospitals to take care of the sick and the injured. And of course, there were scores of utility workers keeping power on and restoring power, when needed.

To put it all into perspective, look at the number of calls made by Georgetown County emergency services from Friday to Tuesday: Georgetown County Fire/EMS, 158; Midway Fire Rescue, 56; Georgetown City Fire Department, 161; Andrews Fire Department, 25; Murrells Inlet-Garden City Fire Department, 73; Georgetown County Sheriff's Office, 395; Georgetown City Police, 257; Pawleys Island Police, 15; and Andrews Police, 64.

Those are staggering numbers, and to say citizens are grateful would be a woeful understatement.

We've all heard stories of rescues from flooded homes. We've heard about the volun-

teers who helped man shelters. We've heard stories of neighbors pitching in to clean up homes and businesses trashed by Mother Nature's unforgiving onslaught. We've heard stories of heroes and prayers answered.

Fourteen people died in South Carolina during these storms, but Georgetown County recorded no deaths. We can contribute that to luck or God's good grace or to the valiant effort of our emergency service crews – or a combination of all the above.

The rain clouds are slowly disappearing, and the sun will shine again. Yet there is still work to be done, lives to rebuild. It will take our whole community to come together.

And when we talk about our emergency responders, let's borrow one more time from A.A. Milne: *"For truly they're the heroes of the day, so we say Hip! Hip! Hooray! ... we salute you ... for deeds of bravery and generosity. Hip! Hip! Hooray!"*

Title: **WEDNESDAY'S DEVELOPMENTS**

Author:

Size: 23.71 square inch

Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



WEDNESDAY'S DEVELOPMENTS

MORE FLOODING?

Along the coast, residents prepared for a second round of flooding as rivers swollen from days of devastating rains make their way toward the Atlantic.

DEATH TOLL RISES

The death toll in North Carolina and South Carolina rose to 19 after search teams found the bodies of two people who died after they drove around a barricade and into standing water in South Carolina.

GRAHAM ON COSTS

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham warned the disaster could "break the

bank" of federal emergency funds, possibly topping more than \$1 billion.

HALEY ON THE COAST

Gov. Nikki Haley took an aerial tour of damaged areas Tuesday and visited the coast Wednesday.

DAM FAILURES

Haley says 62 dams across the state are being monitored and 13 had already failed.

WILDLIFE RESCUES

Haley says state wildlife officials have made at least 600 rescues.

WITHOUT POWER

Electricity had returned to most homes and businesses and about

10,000 people were without water, down from a peak of 40,000.

ROADS, BRIDGES

Some 200 engineers were inspecting more than 400 roads and bridges that remained closed.

INTERSTATE 95

Long-distance traffic on about 60 miles of I-95 in the 74-mile stretch between Interstates 20 and 26 was being detoured onto those interstates for a 168-mile trek.

GAME MOVED

The University of South Carolina announced it was moving Saturday's football game against No. 7 LSU to Baton Rouge, La.

Source: The Associated Press

Title: Death with dignity law needed in SC**Author:****Size: 10.85 square inch****Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015**



Death with dignity law needed in SC

Senior citizens have for a long time been talking about "Death with Dignity" laws enacted in five states; California this week was the latest. At least 23 other state legislatures have proposed bills to legalize the practice. A good article on this matter appears in the Sept. 28 issue of Time magazine.

I strongly request your readers ask Gov. Nikki Haley to advise our legislature for an end-of-life option permitting terminally ill patients to control the timing of their death rather than prolong painful life by machines, drugs and morphine fogs.

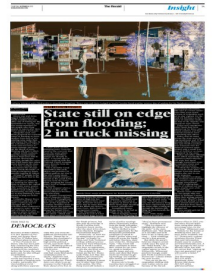
It is wrong that a fatally ill person could exhaust assets saved during a lifetime for ultimately unsuccessful medical treatments. We all know that many people die badly. It is cruel to demand that one await death in a medically induced coma after losing all faculties.

It is also cruel to require a person with only six months to live to leave their South Carolina family and friends to drive thousands of miles to Oregon, Vermont, Washington or Montana to legally pass away on his/her own terms.

Dying is sacred, and death should be peaceful.

**Joe Nelson
Bluffton**

Title: **State still on edge from flooding; 2 in truck missing**
 Author: BY BRUCE SMITH Associated Press
 Size: 140.58 square inch
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



SOUTH CAROLINA RAINSTORM

State still on edge from flooding; 2 in truck missing

BY BRUCE SMITH

Associated Press

GEORGETOWN

Rivers rose and dams bulged Wednesday as South Carolina faced another day of waiting for the floodwaters to recede, and dive teams searched for two people who disappeared in waters after they drove around a barricade.

Along the coast, residents prepared for a second round of flooding as rivers swollen from days of devastating rains make their way toward the Atlantic. In the Columbia area, where some returned home to assess damage and clean up, the threat of more flooding still hadn't lifted.

About 1,000 residents near the compromised Beaver Dam were told to evacuate Wednesday morning, though the order was lifted hours later when crews shored up the dam.

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham warned the disaster could "break the bank" of federal emergency funds, possibly topping \$1 billion.

At least 17 people in the Carolinas have died in the storm.

Officials in Columbia are looking for other options to protect the capital

city's main water source after a portion of the Columbia canal collapsed Wednesday, forcing workers to stop building a dam meant to plug an earlier breach.

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin called the collapse a setback and encouraged the city's 375,000 water customers to conserve water. But he said officials have contingency plans in place to make sure the city does not run out of water.

Those plans include pumping water from the canal to the reservoir that feeds the water plant. Benjamin said those pumps are already in place. A second plan involves working with the National Guard to pump water directly from the Broad River.

The Columbia Canal was built in the early 1800s and provides 35 million gallons per day to the city's water plant. Record rainfall caused a breach in the canal downstream from the water plant, bringing the canal's water level to dangerously low levels.

Work stopped when a second portion of the canal collapsed Wednesday afternoon.

In coastal Georgetown, one of America's oldest cities, Scott Youngblood put more sandbags by the door of the Augustus & Carolina furniture store on Front Street, the popular tourist attraction that runs along the Sampit River.

Each day since last weekend's storm - which sent more than a foot of water washing down the street - water at high tide has lapped against those sandbags. Residents worried there may be more flooding on the Black and Waccamaw rivers. Both drain into Georgetown County.

The Waccamaw was expected to crest at 5 feet above flood stage in Conway, in Horry County, Thursday. The Black crested Tuesday upstream at Kingstree at about 10 feet above flood stage, breaking a record, officials said.

Youngblood hopes things won't be as bad as earlier in the week.

"We're hanging our hat on that we're not going to

have that combination of tide and rain and such," he said. "We had so much rain, but the primary thing we were experiencing was the water table coming up through the bottom bubbling up from beneath the flooring."

Gov. Nikki Haley planned to visit the coast Wednesday afternoon. She said at a news conference that areas downstream of Columbia needed to stay vigilant for the next 24-48 hours as the mass of rainwater works its way to the Atlantic and threatens more floods.

Haley said emergency relief funds had been opened up for three additional counties and that federal assessors were examining two others.

Haley said 62 dams across the state were being monitored, and 13 had already failed. However, she said South Carolina was fortunate that the areas of concern represented only a small fraction of 2,000 or so dams regulated by the state.

Haley and other officials were asked repeatedly by reporters about whether

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the state had spent enough in previous years to maintain dams and other infrastructure.

"I think the analysis of this can be done after" the danger from the floods

passes, she said in one testy response.

At a shelter in Columbia, Graham said it would take weeks to get a good damage assessment.

"We're talking hundreds of millions (of dol-

lars), maybe over a billion," he said.

Rescue crews searched for two people who vanished in Richland County when their pickup entered flood water. Sheriff's depu-

ties said the pickup's driver went around barricade for a road that had been closed for several days after being washed out.

Three people got out of the truck safely.



JOHN BAZEMORE AP

Wendy Dixon weeps as she leaves her flood-damaged apartment in Columbia.

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MIC SMITH AP

Anthony Johnson walks Wednesday in downtown Kingstree. Rivers rose and dams bulged as South Carolina faced another anxious day of waiting for the floodwaters to recede.

Title: **S.C. still on edge from floods; two die in truck**
 Author: BY ADAM BEAM AND MEG KINNARD Associated Press
 Size: 32.70 square inch
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



S.C. still on edge from floods; two die in truck

BY ADAM BEAM
AND MEG KINNARD

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — It could take until the weekend for the threat of flooding to ease in storm-tattered South Carolina, where a senator warned of a potential billion-dollar cleanup bill, two more people died in the floodwaters and the flagship university sent a home football game 700 miles away.

Rivers rose and dams bulged as storm water from days of heavy rains made its way to the Atlantic Ocean, causing a second round of flooding downstream.

Gov. Nikki Haley paid a visit to the coast, which she said would still be in danger for another 24 to 48 hours.

"We're holding our breath and saying a prayer," she said.

U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham warned the disaster could "break the bank" of federal emergency funds, possibly topping more than \$1 billion.

In another image of the storm's otherworldly toll, state officials said caskets have popped out of the ground in 11 instances in six counties.

At least 19 people in South Carolina and North Carolina have died in the storm, while many survivors returned home to discover they'd lost everything.

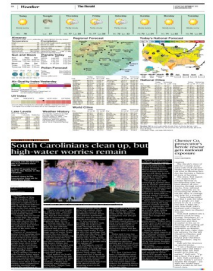
Wendy Dixon burst into sobs after realizing her wedding album and dozens of photos of her two sons and three grandchildren were destroyed.



AP PHOTO/MIC SMITH

Rebecca Cox, right, and her daughter, Savannah Grace Cox, 8, watch Kevin Cox and family dog Mack, go back into their home to retrieve food from the refrigerator on Woodland Drive in Kingstree on Wednesday.

Title: **South Carolinians clean up, but high-water worries remain**
 Author: By Jay Reeves and Emery P. Dalesio Associated Press
 Size: 70.99 square inch
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



SOUTH CAROLINA RAINSTORM

South Carolinians clean up, but high-water worries remain

By Jay Reeves and Emery P. Dalesio

Associated Press
COLUMBIA

The family of Miss South Carolina 1954 found her flood-soaked pageant scrapbook on a dining room floor littered with dead fish on Tuesday, as the first sunny day in nearly two weeks provided a chance to clean up from historic floods.

"I would hate for her to see it like this. She would be crushed," said Polly Sim, who moved her 80-year-old mother into a nursing home just before the rainstorm turned much of the state into a disaster area.

Owners of inundated homes were keeping close watch on swollen waterways as they pried open doors and tore out soaked carpets. So far, at least 17 people have died in the floods in the Carolinas, some of them drowning after trying to drive through high water.

Sim's mother, known as Polly Rankin Suber when she competed in the Miss America contest, had lived since 1972 in the unit, where more than 3 feet of muddy water toppled her washing machine and turned the wallboard to mush.

"There's no way it will be what it was," said Sim. "My mom was so eccentric, had her own funky style of decorating, there's no way anyone could

duplicate that. Never."

Tuesday was the first dry day in Columbia since Sept. 24, but officials warned that new evacuations could come as the huge mass of water flows toward the sea, threatening dams and displacing residents along the way.

Of particular concern was the Lowcountry, where the Santee, Edisto and other rivers make their way to the sea. Gov. Nikki Haley warned several rivers were rising and had yet to reach their peaks.

"God smiled on South Carolina because the sun is out. That is a good sign, but ... we still have to be cautious," Haley said Tuesday after taking an aerial tour. "What I saw was disturbing."

Georgetown, one of America's oldest cities, sits on the coast at the confluence of four rivers. The historic downtown flooded over the weekend, and its ordeal wasn't over.

"It was coming in through the kitchen wall, through the bathroom walls, through the bedroom walls, through the living room walls. It was up over the sandbags that we put over the door. And it just kept rising," Tom Doran said, bracing himself for the next wave. "If I see a hoard of locusts then I'm taking off."

In Effingham, east of

Columbia, the Lynches River was at nearly 20 feet on Tuesday - five feet above flood stage. Kip Jones paddled a kayak to check on a home he rents out there and discovered the family lost pretty much everything they had, with almost 8 feet of standing water in the bedrooms.

"Their stuff is floating all in the house," Jones said. "Once the water comes in the house you get bacteria and you get mold."

The South Carolina National Guard planned to drop 1-ton sandbags from Chinook helicopters to bolster a major breach between a canal and the Congaree River in Columbia.

Haley said it was too soon to estimate the damage, which could be "any amount of dollars." The Republican governor quickly got a federal disaster declaration from President Barack Obama, freeing up money and resources.

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Republican presidential candidate, promised not "to ask for a penny more than we need" and criticized other lawmakers for seeking financing for unrelated projects in disaster bills.

Water distribution was a challenge. In the region

around Columbia, as many as 40,000 homes lacked drinking water, and Mayor Steve Benjamin said 375,000 water customers will likely have to boil their water before drinking or cooking for "quite some time."

The power grid was returning to normal after nearly 30,000 customers lost electricity. Roads and bridges were taking longer to restore: Some 200 engineers were inspecting about 470 spots that remained closed Tuesday, including a 75-mile stretch of Interstate 95.

Some drivers had a hard time accepting the long detours around standing water. In Turbeville, Police Lt. Philip Wilkes stood at a traffic stop, telling motorists where they could go to avoid flooded roads and dangerous bridges.

"Some people take it pretty good," Wilkes said. "Then you've got some of them, they just won't take no for an answer. We can't part the waters."

South Carolina was soaked by what experts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration called a "fire hose" of tropical moisture spun off by Hurricane Joaquin, which mostly missed the East Coast.

Authorities have made hundreds of water rescues

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since then, lifting people and animals to safety. About 800 people were in two dozen shelters, but the governor expects that number to rise.

Tuesday was the first dry day in Columbia since

Sept. 24

At least 17 people have died in the floods in the Carolinas

Several rivers in the Lowcountry have yet to reach their peaks



JEFF SINER The Charlotte Observer

Jerry Reece, 69, walks Tuesday on a flood-covered road in Horry County.



Title: **Federal aid for storm relief still up in the air**
 Author: BY DAN BROWN dbrown@aikenstandard.com
 Size: 55.95 square inch
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635

Federal aid for storm relief still up in the air

BY DAN BROWN

dbrown@aikenstandard.com

Aiken County has not yet been included in the list of South Carolina counties eligible for federal financial assistance; but County officials plan to still assess and document their expenses to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA.

Like several counties across the state, Aiken County received heavy rainfall throughout the weekend, which in turn flooded several neighborhoods and roads.

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley announced in a news conference Tuesday that the counties of Charleston, Dorchester, Georgetown, Horry, Lexington, Orangeburg, Richland and Williamsburg are on the list of areas eligible for federal aid.

That list may later include other counties based on damage assessment reports, including Aiken County, according to a release from the South Carolina Emergency Services Division.

Haley said Tuesday that she is working closely with affected counties and FEMA representatives regarding federal aid.

On Tuesday, Aiken County Administrator Clay Killian said the County signed an emergency declaration Saturday, what Killian called "an administrative action," which essentially enacts County resources to areas in need.

To undo the declaration, County Council would have to vote on the matter, requiring just one vote, and not the traditional three.

The County will continue to track any potential storm expenses and continuously assess roads, Killian said.

Although Aiken County was not one of the areas listed to receive disaster relief, Killian said the County will pursue federal dollars.

"We still don't know the extent of damage," he said. "As far as County roads and properties, we lost (a portion of) Cumbee Trail Road, and the other roads are mainly dirt roads, which really just need to dry and be reset. The final cost will not be like the numbers associated with the (February 2014) ice storm."

More than 1 inch of ice covered Aiken County in February 2014, causing

thousands of trees and power lines to fall. Aiken County and the City of Aiken received millions of dollars in federal reimbursement after the storm.

"Overall, we didn't get anything like Columbia and Charleston," Killian said. "I don't know of any structural areas out in the eastern and northern regions of the county that were damaged, but we were fortunate."

While Aiken County was fortunate, Killian said there is still much work to be done before life can return to normal.

"I think we're OK, but we still have some work to do for the folks out in the eastern portion of the county," Killian said.

Damage assessment teams are heading to the areas hardest hit by flooding and will continue to add counties to the list as they complete their damage assessments.

"If there's a way to get emergency declaration money, we'll certainly go after it," Killian said.

In a televised news conference, Haley called FEMA aid a matter of inclusion for counties affected.

"This is about addition, not subtraction," Haley said. "Every county has the ability to add on to that list."

FEMA is accepting early registration for flood damage assistance following

President Obama's federal disaster area designation on Monday, the agency said Tuesday.

According to a released statement, property owners in those counties who sustained flood damage can complete an application for assistance by visiting www.disasterassistance.gov to pre-register, or call 1-800-621-3362.

When asked to choose a disaster, select the "disaster has occurred, but not in the list" option.

Applications will be processed if a declaration is signed.

The type of assistance available includes: rental payments for temporary housing; grants for home repairs and replacement of essential items not covered by insurance; low-interest loans to cover residential losses not fully covered by insurance; crisis counseling; and unemployment benefits for up to 26 weeks for workers who temporarily lost jobs because of the disaster but do not qualify for state benefits.

Those wishing to file an application for assistance also can call 800-621-3362 for assistance. The toll-free number will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

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

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STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Flooding left behind a big gully on the dirt portion of Nantuckett Road near where it crosses Hollow Creek Road in the northeast corner of Aiken County.

Title: **Flooding cleanup begins, worries remain**
 Author: BY JAY REEVES AND EMERY P. DALESIO Associated Press
 Size: 34.1 square inch
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



Flooding cleanup begins, worries remain

BY JAY REEVES AND
EMERY P. DALESIO

Associated Press

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area.

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and turned the wallboard to mush.

"There's no way it will be what it was," said Sim. "My mom was so eccentric, had her own funky style of decorating, there's no way anyone could duplicate that. Never."

Tuesday was the first dry day since Sept. 24 in South Carolina's state capital, where a midnight-to-6 a.m. curfew was in effect.

Please see **WATER**, Page 12A

WATER

CONTINUED from 1A

But officials warned that new evacuations could come as the huge mass of water flows toward the sea, threatening dams and displacing residents along the way.

Of particular concern was the Lowcountry, where the Santee, Edisto and other riv-

ers make their way to the sea. Gov. Nikki Haley warned that several rivers were rising and had yet to reach their peaks.

"God smiled on South Carolina because the sun is out. That is a good sign, but ... we still have to be cautious," Haley said Tuesday after taking an aerial tour. "What I saw was disturbing."

"We are going to be extremely careful. We are watching this minute by minute," she said.

Georgetown, one of America's oldest cities, sits on the coast at the confluence of four rivers. The historic downtown flooded over the weekend, and its ordeal wasn't over yet.

"It was coming in through

the kitchen wall, through the bathroom walls, through the bedroom walls, through the living room walls. It was up over the sandbags that we put over the door. And, it just kept rising," Tom Doran said, bracing himself for the next wave. "If I see a hoard of locusts then I'm taking off."

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AP PHOTO/JOHN BAZEMORE

Lucy Mahan and Curtis Player work to secure a friend's belongings Tuesday in Columbia after their home was flooded. Despite an improving forecast, it will still take weeks for the state to return to normal after being pummeled by a historic rainstorm.



ONLINE
Extended story can
be found at **aiken-
standard.com**

Title: **The deluge touched us all, even if we escaped the worst of it**
 Author:
 Size: 61.22 square inch
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CINDI ROSS SCOPPE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
THE STATE

The deluge touched us all, even if we escaped the worst of it

THE RAINWATER pooled on my front sidewalk Sunday morning, just as it does every time we get a heavy rain. Two miles away, it swallowed up entire cars, collapsed buildings, flooded businesses and took at least one life.

A friend had to escape through a window as the raging storm water overtook his SUV. I had to drive slowly when I ventured out of the house Sunday afternoon.

My water went out, which presents all sorts of problems that you never think of until it happens — but which is a minor inconvenience compared with what so many of my neighbors down the street, across the Midlands and throughout South Carolina are enduring. I wasn't flooded out of my home, wasn't trapped in surging water, didn't have to be rescued by our amazing first responders or forced to seek shelter with friends or strangers. As so many were. This is the story that has repeated across our state, as elevation and wind direction and even luck — did an earthen dam near your home or business breach, or remain intact? — determined the degree of damage. The storm that swamped South Carolina over the weekend was so massive that each of us

knows someone who is suffering. The storm was so massive that all of us were touched in some way, even if just by the inconvenience of having to keep the kids home from schools that are closed, or the prospect of

the state's dialogue being overtaken by its aftermath.

Most of us were spared the life-changing toll a storm of this magnitude can take. Is taking. For this, I offer up my prayers of thanks. For those not so fortunate, I offer up my prayers of intercession.

As should we all.

And we all should offer up our assistance. We should check on our neighbors. We should reach out to those in need — even if we offer them nothing more than a friendly ear and opened arms. If we have time, we should volunteer to help the United Way or the Red Cross or other service organizations that are trying to help people survive from one day to the next and then start putting their lives back together. Money probably wouldn't hurt, if you want to send a check to the United Way or the Central Carolina Community Foundation. I'm sure Harvest Hope and the other food banks around the state would be happy to accept your monetary or food donations. The worst may be over; it may

not be. Flooding will continue as rivers crest and overflow their banks from the mountains to the coast. More victims may be discovered as the flood waters recede and as rescuers and neighbors are able to venture into homes that were flooded. We have not yet begun to count the damage to private and public property, or to our infrastructure. More dams may breach, more bridges may collapse, more roads may disintegrate as

the rain continues, as the rivers crest, as the traffic rolls back over water-weakened asphalt. Our local and state leaders will be tested — are being tested — by the storm. There will be time to assess their performance. There will be time to consider what, if anything, we could have done differently to make this less devastating: Would better maintained bridges and roads have survived the storm? In Columbia, the same question can be asked of a water system whose funding has been been diverted to frivolities. Would more conservative zoning have kept homes and businesses out of harm's way? Do we have, and enforce, adequate dam-safety regulations? Or was this deluge just too overwhelming for even the best public policy to make a difference?

For now, we can be grateful to

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the first responders who put their own lives at risk to save so many others over the weekend. Who are still out there, still saving lives. We can be grateful for the good Samaritans who added their assistance, not because it was their job but because it was their calling. We can be grateful to the public officials, from Gov. Nikki Haley and Adjutant General Bob Livingston to sheriffs and police chiefs and mayors and council members and city managers, who offered calm but firm warnings, who put in place curfews

and called on schools and businesses to close in order to, in Gov. Haley's words, "give us the space that we need" to begin to put the state back together. And we can remember to practice patience. The recovery will not be quick. Roads and bridges will take weeks or months to repair. Some homes and businesses will take longer — if they can even be salvaged. People who have been uprooted will not find normalcy soon, and the displacement will disrupt their entire lives, exacting a tremendous emotional toll. Those of us

who have been merely inconvenienced can quickly forget that we were fortunate, that the damage was tremendous, that the suffering continues and that there is so much work to be done, for individuals and for our communities.

Be kind. Be careful. Be helpful. And do unto others as you would have them do unto you. We are one family. Together, we will recover.

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THERE WILL BE TIME TO ASSESS THE PERFORMANCE OF OUR LEADERS AND OUR POLICIES. FOR NOW, WE CAN BE GRATEFUL.

