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SC Front Pages – Thurs day, October 6, 2016

# The Post and Courier

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Thursday, October 6, 2016

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## HURRICANE MATTHEW

# Bracing for the worst

Lowcountry gets ready for Matthew's strong winds, torrential rain; evacuation underway

BY BO PETERSEN  
and ANGIE JACKSON  
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A National Hurricane Center forecast at 11 p.m. Wednesday showed Hurricane Matthew weakened slightly with winds now at 115 mph.

The record-setting storm, however, was expected to gain intensity Thursday as the Miami-based Hurricane Center said.

The storm late Wednesday night was located about 125 miles south-southeast of Nassau, Bahamas, and 325 miles southeast of West Palm Beach, Florida. Computer model runs still diverge and

the Lowcountry will be hit next with a dangerous storm.

Over the next day or two, Matthew will move northward very near or over north Florida's eastern coast, and then near or to the east of the Georgia and South Carolina coasts, said National Hurricane Center special forecaster Ivan Valdes.

Along South Carolina's lower coast, an evacuation was underway that officials expected to move more than a million people inland.

Gov. Nikki Haley on Wednesday ordered the evacuation of Charleston, Beaufort and parts of adjacent counties and announced plans for lane reversals on Interstate 26, and evacuations started at 3 p.m. Georgetown and Horry county residents will evacuate Thursday morning.

The evacuation included every zone in the Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties, except Central Coast Zone H, which is predominantly Berkeley County, and Southern Coast Zone B. The zones can be found in The Post and Courier Hurricane Guide.

In a press conference at 6 p.m., Haley said the lane reversal was working "beautifully" but that all hotels in the state were now full. She recommended using Airbnb to find accommodations.

By Wednesday morning, Folly Beach was restricting who could get on the island. Isle of Palms officials were considering it. Sullivan's Island officials said they had no plans to check travelers as of now.

### Low confidence

The Weather Service said windy and rainy conditions should begin to wane Friday evening or early Saturday morning. Rainfall could be anywhere from 5 to 10 inches. Storm surge could be 4 to 6 feet. There's a small risk of tornadoes.

Forecasters called for Matthew to regain 130 mph, Category 4 strength by Thursday and moved its closest approach to the Lowcountry to above Beaufort, still out to sea, by



Snapper Jacks employees Justin Houk (from left), Eric Miller and Kevin Crossley on Wednesday board up the Folly Beach seafood restaurant.

**pc Gallery**  
For more photos, go to [postandcourier.com/galleries](http://postandcourier.com/galleries)

### Matthew's projected path



### Saturday afternoon

It's expected to be a high Category 2 storm with winds of 100 mph or stronger, although at least one model run suggested it could run up the South Carolina coast as a powerful storm. National Weather Service, Charleston, meteorologists said forecasters had only low confidence in the predicted track, strength and timing of when the storm hits.

Please see **MATTHEW**, Page A5

## I-26 lane reversal going well

Motorists reminded to listen to officers

BY DIANE KNICH  
and DERREK ASBERRY  
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South Carolina passed the first real-life test of its plan to reverse the east-bound lanes on Interstate 26 to speed traffic toward Columbia.

State Highway Patrol Lance Cpl. Matthew Southern said the east-bound lanes of Interstate 26 between Interstate 526 in North Charleston and Interstate 77 in Columbia were shut down around noon, and then reversed about 3 p.m.

And the transition went pretty well, he said, except that some motorists were disregarding law enforcement officers' direction.

Please see **TRAFFIC**, Page A4

## Answers about the hurricane

Here's some info that will help you get ready

BY CAITLIN BYRD  
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Knowledge is power, especially during an emergency. In an effort to give you all the information you need, we took your questions about Hurricane Matthew to find out what this storm could mean for us in the Lowcountry.

Here's what we found:

**When will Hurricane Matthew hit South Carolina?**

**Q&A** Forecasters and the most recent computer runs call for Hurricane Matthew to pass the Lowcountry coast Friday afternoon into Saturday morning, somewhat farther out to sea.

Please see **QUESTIONS**, Page A6

### Inside



**NATION**  
After testy VP debate, Trump rebuffs claim he 'loves' Putin. **A10**

**LOCAL**  
Students to deliver signed petition to MUSC dean. **A3**

## Over 1,000 gather for Townville shooting victim's superhero funeral

BY SEANNA ADCOX  
Associated Press

**TOWNVILLE** — Six-year-old Jacob Hall was dressed as Batman for his funeral on Wednesday, and many of more than 1,000 mourners appeared as superheroes to honor the school shooting victim.

The first-grader's mother, choking back tears, wore a Robin costume. Jacob's family had asked mourners to celebrate the boy's life by dressing as the superheroes he loved, and so they did. Captain Americas and Wonder Women filled out his small blue casket, along with Superman and Super-girls, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Power Rangers. His teachers came in handmade blue capes with a Ninja Turtle face and Jacob's name.

**pc Gallery**  
For more photos, go to [postandcourier.com/galleries](http://postandcourier.com/galleries)

Jacob loved to pretend he was a superhero, imagining himself as the good guy, the Rev. David Blizzard recalled. He encouraged mourners to honor his wishes by forgiving the 14-year-old boy charged with killing him at Townville Elementary School. "Preacher, I know what Jacob would say to me," Blizzard said. Jacob's mother, Renee Hall, told him, "The Lord, Y'all, forgive that boy and love him like Jesus loves him because Jesus loves him."

Please see **TOWNVILLE**, Page A7



Dale Hall, dressed as Superman, stands before the casket of his brother, Jacob, during a superhero-themed funeral service on Wednesday at Oakdale Baptist Church in Townville.



Rain showers, High 76, Low 70. Complete 5-day forecast. **B6**

Edge ..... E7  
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Markets ..... F11  
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Crossroads ..... B6-14  
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**Charleston Deals Today**  
Legare Farms \$10 for 2 to pumpkin patch. See Page A2



TOWNVILLE SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

# Community grieves 'God's superhero'



BY SALLEY MCINERNEY  
Contributing columnist

There is never a good day to say good-bye to a little boy, but on Tuesday, in the late afternoon, the small community of Townville, nestled amongst corn fields of western Upstate South Carolina, circled the wagons of grief and began its farewell.

Farewell to innocence. To the presumption that something like this could not possibly happen in such an off-the-beaten-path place. To a 6-year-old named Jacob Hall.

Jacob, a brown-haired boy who loved superheroes, died Saturday after being shot sever-



Jacob Hall

al days earlier on the Townville Elementary School playground, along with a teacher and fellow student who survived. A 14-year-old is charged.

**TUESDAY, 4 P.M.**

The traffic on I-85, west of Anderson, is light. There is talk on the car radio of Hurricane

SEE HEROES, 6A



KEN RINAARD/Associated Press

Dale Hall, dressed as Superman, stands before the casket during a superhero-themed funeral service for his brother, Jacob.

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FORECAST, 10C

# The State

HURRICANE MATTHEW

# Thousands flee coast as storm nears state

250,000 leave Charleston/Beaufort/Hilton Head; still more may flee Grand Strand



Road crews closed eastbound lanes of Interstate 26 from Columbia to Charleston on Wednesday.

GERRY MELENDEZ gmelende@thestate.com

BY SAMMY FRETWELL  
sfretwell@thestate.com

Thousands of people fled South Carolina's coast Wednesday, seeking to escape the looming threat of Hurricane Matthew and the potentially heavy toll the storm could take on communities across the Lowcountry.

State officials estimated the number of evacuees from the Charleston-Beaufort-Hilton Head Island areas at 250,000. Another 200,000 people could be evacuated Thursday from the Grand Strand.

The hurricane's eye wasn't projected to make landfall in South Carolina, but forecasters said the storm could have wide-ranging effects far from its center by Saturday.

Tropical storm-force winds, heavy seas and coastal flooding were likely in the Charleston and Hilton Head Island areas before the hurricane turns east and moves farther out to sea Saturday afternoon, forecasters said.

"We are trying to be

SEE STORM, 7A

Unexpected SC school closures wreak havoc on some working parents

ONLINE

Check [thestate.com](http://thestate.com) Thursday for updates on Hurricane Matthew and





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GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

**USA TODAY** OBAMA HAILS CLIMATE COMPACT **PAGE 1B**

HURRICANE MATTHEW

**AREA SHELTERS PREP**



BRAD NETTLES/AP

Residents fill sandbags at the Boes Ferry fire station in Charleston Wednesday to prepare for possible flooding from Hurricane Matthew.

**Greenville Red Cross seeking volunteers**

DONNA ISBELL WALKER AND TIM SMITH  
THE GREENVILLE NEWS

Greenville County Schools dispatched 300 school buses and drivers to the Lowcountry on Wednesday to transport residents fleeing Hurricane Matthew, but the couple dozen evacuees who showed up by mid-afternoon were sent to local shelters.

"What we know now is not as many evacuees showed up as anticipated," said David Poag, a transportation coordinator for Greenville County Schools. "So we have a large group of folks who are willing to stay overnight in anticipation of more evacuees tomorrow."

At the Charleston Area Convention Center in North Charleston, authorities had expected

to evacuate as many as 7,500 people to shelters in the Upstate. Instead, about 80 drivers steered their buses home while the rest bunked down on cots at the North Charleston Coliseum in the event they are needed this morning.

"With the storm kind of wavering out there and still not sure it's going to slow down, I'm sure some people are still weighing their chances and their risk of whether to evacuate or not," said Mike Bozzo, incident commander for the state Forestry Commission's Incident Management Team, which is managing evacuation efforts at the center.

Reynaldo Acosta, a resident of John's Island, arrived at the Charleston Area Convention

See **SHELTERS**, Page 2A

**INSIDE**

Matthew marching closer to U.S. coast, **Page 1B**

**ONLINE**

For updated coverage of Hurricane Matthew throughout the day, visit **Greenville Online.com**

**Matthew track leaves forecasters guessing**

ELIZABETH LAFLEUR AND TIM SMITH  
THE GREENVILLE NEWS  
TONYA MAXWELL  
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES

Roughly 250,000 residents and tourists fled the Lowcountry by Wednesday evening ahead of an approaching storm with a projected track that baffled residents, forecasters and state officials. At least as many more are expected to evacuate Thursday.

Westbound traffic flowed smoothly on both sides of Interstate 26 as evacuees headed out of

See **FORECAST**, Page 8A

**We must forgive, mourners at Jacob Hall service told**

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AND KIRK BROWN  
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**INSIDE**

District 4 plans therapy dogs, counseling for first day back, **Page 3C**









# Independent Mail

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2016

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

**TOWNVILLE SCHOOL SHOOTING**

## 'WE MUST FORGIVE'



PHOTOS BY KEN RUSNARD/INDEPENDENT MAIL

A man dressed as a Teenage Ninja Turtle pats Dale Hall, right, brother of Jacob Hall, moments before the funeral for the 6-year old boy on Wednesday at Oakdale Baptist Church in Townville.

### More than 1,500 attend boy's funeral

**NIKIE MAYO**  
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**KIRK BROWN**  
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As more than 1,500 people gathered Wednesday for the funeral of Townville Elementary School student Jacob Hall, the message they heard again and again was clear: We must forgive.

Jacob, 6, was mortally wounded Sept. 28 when a shooter opened fire on the school playground. Jacob died Saturday, surrounded by family and wrapped in a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles blanket.

A teenager, 14-year-old Jesse Osborne of Townville, is accused in the shooting, in which a first-grade teacher and two other students were also hurt.

"I can't make sense of it; I cannot," said Tim Marcengill, associate pastor of Oakdale Baptist Church in Townville.



Mourners arrive at Oakdale Baptist Church in Townville for Jacob Hall's funeral Wednesday. Hall loved superheroes, so the family made hero costumes a big part of the service.

### Hero shirts help bring students together

**MIKE ELLIS**  
MIKE.ELLIS@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

fifth-grader at the elementary school, was hunkered down safely with his classmates as they heard police run-

### School gets permanent police officer

STAFF REPORT

After the Sept. 28 shooting at Townville Elementary School, Anderson School District 4 plans to have a permanent school resource officer.

The Anderson County Council voted Tuesday to authorize the creation of an SRO position for Townville Elementary School, said Anderson County Administrator Rusty Burns. At the time of the shooting, there was not an officer on duty at the school.

Superintendent Joanne Avery said Pendleton-based District 4 is working with the sheriff's office to have a permanent SRO at the school.

As of now, it will be District 4's responsibility to pay for that position, said District 4 school board Chairman Tom Dobbins.

But Dobbins said he believes the dis-





# Morning News

THURSDAY OCTOBER 6, 2016

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Mostly cloudy, breezy and humid. High 77, low 66.

DETAILS 2A

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## Hurricane Matthew

# SC braces as storm moves north

## Storm evacuees flood Florence-area hotels

BY JOE PERRY  
Morning News  
jperry@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Two weeks ago Mike and Megan Staub moved from Philadelphia to settle along the coast of South Carolina.

"Welcome to the south," Mike joked Wednesday afternoon. "We were used to snowstorms...."

As Hurricane Matthew

churned north and an untold number of folks fled the coast, the Staubs decided Tuesday evening to evacuate their new apartment on Daniel Island and found a room at the Courtyard Marriott along Hospitality Boulevard. Being unsure about how well traffic would flow, the couple "tried to beat the rush,

See **HOTEL**, Page 4A



JOE PERRY/MORNING NEWS  
Mike and Megan Staub work on their laptops Wednesday at the Courtyard Marriott, where the couple stayed Tuesday night after evacuating Daniel Island, which lies between Charleston and Mount Pleasant.

From staff reports

WILMINGTON, N.C. — As it churns up the East Coast toward South Carolina, Hurricane Matthew is projected to take a turn for the better today.

Forecasters expect the storm to start making a wide, swinging turn to the east in an arc that will at least spin the high wind and heavy rain out into the Atlantic Ocean by early Sunday morning. But forecasters at the National Weather Service in Wilmington stressed in a briefing at 7 p.m. Wednesday

that they are by no means certain of the storm track.

"The latest hurricane track brings Hurricane Matthew northward along the Florida coast and off the South Carolina coast before curving back to the east. There is a high level of uncertainty of this track once it is north of Georgia as several weather models bring the track closer to the coast and recurve the storm later," according to the briefing.

The easterly trend in the track continued one that

See **MATTHEW**, Page 4A

## Changes coming to Florence Christmas parade

BY JOSHUA LLOYD  
Morning News  
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FLORENCE — The annual Christmas parade through downtown Florence will be held earlier this year to include more local high school bands and better availability for people on holiday break.

The parade is typically held the third weekend in December but organizers have bumped it to the second weekend in the month. This year the parade will be on Dec. 10.

"Christmas is still a few months away but we wanted people to know the date has changed for planning purposes," said City Councilwoman Pat Gibson-Hye Moore, a parade coordinator. "In the past most high school bands weren't able to participate because school was out for winter. This year they'll be able to be in the parade."

Moore said the parade committee is working on details but plans are to have a stage on South Dargan Street with live music and caroling, among other activities.

"We're trying to make it bigger and better than before," Moore said.

The parade's path has not changed from last year's route. It will travel down Evans Street from Edisto Drive to the BTC building in downtown Florence.

To cover the expenses of the parade, there will be a fee of \$50 per unit in the

## PILOTS N PAWS

# The Lucky Seven



PHOTOS BY JESSICA IMBIMBO/MORNING NEWS  
Lela Joseph (left) and Wendy Wilton (center) say goodbye to Rhett the Chihuahua as Scott Messenger (right) gets ready to transport him and six other dogs from the Florence Area Humane Society to Last Dog Rescue in Pennsylvania.

## Florence shelter dogs board plane north to find forever homes

BY JESSICA IMBIMBO  
Morning News  
jimbimo@florencenews.com



FLORENCE — Seven shelter dogs from the Florence Area Humane Society were flown Wednesday to a rescue in Pennsylvania where they can find loving homes. The flight was courtesy of the Pilots N Paws volunteer organization.

Pilots N Paws allows volunteer pilots to assist with animal transportation. In this case, a pilot arranged a rescue flight from the Florence organization to Last Dog Rescue in Pennsylvania for seven older, and

### ONLINE

More photos and a video are online at [snow.com](http://snow.com).

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