

Loris Scene
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State¹⁴⁸ recovering from historical flood

BY JENNIFER BOYD
FOR THE LORIS SCENE

From the concrete jungle of our state capital to the shores of Myrtle Beach, we have witnessed unimaginal flooding that would rival any Biblical story. The entire country watched with bated breath as the rains began to fall for more than two days, dropping more rain than some regions received in an entire year.

Once the rains stopped and more than 5.56 trillion gallons of water were dumped on our state, a second wave of flooding began after the northern waters moved down to our rivers, lakes, swamps and streams that were already overflowing with water. It did not take long for the stagnant water to permeate through homes, vehicles and businesses, while taking the lives of 15 South Carolina residents.

Who's to blame?

Many were shocked when the news broke that our state only spent \$250,000 on engineering costs associated with dams, bridges and roads. So far, 14 dams failed, thousands of roads collapsed and several bridges were swept away. In comparison, North Carolina spent \$2 million on their engineering cost, presenting the question, "Could we have contributed to this disaster?"

When Gov. Haley was asked about how little the government spent on road and dam safety, she said, "I think the analysis of this can be done after the danger from the floods pass."

Republican presidential candidate Sen. Lindsay Graham said the floods would "break

the bank" of federal emergency funding and the government handout should be treated delicately to avoid a 'pork-laden monstrosity.' " He was of course referring to the nightmare debacle of the northeast after Hurricane Sandy hit its coast in 2012.

FEMA and insurance company's lackluster damage assessments are still a source of contention, three years later.

The aftermath

The Army Core of Engineers is working feverishly to secure existing infrastructures, including water lines. The record rainfall has forced many South Carolina residents to boil water because it's not safe to drink. Five main water veins have been breached, giving people no choice but to take precautions with cooking and using water from the faucet.

Every fire department and police department in the flooded areas has worked around the clock to ensure every resident is safe and secure.

The First Response Team of America, located in Pennsylvania, has also relocated to South Carolina, aiding with tree removal and providing the assistance of their hover crafts to maneuver through heavily flooded areas.

The National Guard has also provided its manpower for our state during this tragic time. To date, there have not been any reports of looting in or around the flooded areas of our state.

Picking up the pieces

Several counties are still experiencing the full effect of the floods. Conway, our coun-

ty government seat, is just starting to feel the wrath of the floods after the northern rains begin to trickle down to the south. Parking downtown and near the Conway Courthouse will be challenging for an expected two weeks. Areas around the Waccamaw River, Lynches River, The Black River and The Santee River will also be compromised, along with every local swamp and lake.

Residents of South Carolina are resilient people who band together when times become tough. There have been unbelievable stories of neighbor helping neighbor, people risking their lives to save those who were swept away in the fast moving waters, and strangers helping with reburial of loved ones whose caskets were uprooted by the rise of the waters. As the second round of flooding moves into our area and surrounding areas, let's not forget how strong and resilient South Carolinians are in the face of a tragedy.



Simpson Creek waters reaching all time highs on the outskirts of Loris.



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Flooding in downtown Conway.



Flooding on Hwy. 905 near Conway.



Gary Cooper, Jr. canoeing in his backyard in North Charleston.

148 County escapes brunt of '1,000-year' storm



GREGORY A. SUMMERS/gsummers@thelancasternews.com

From left, S.C. National Guard PFC James Felder, PFC Justin Hannah, Sgt. Raheem Cooks and Spc. William Jenkins talk while checking over a convoy line of equipment at the armory on Nichols Road on Monday, Oct. 5. 178th Combat Engineers were called to state active duty about lunchtime Sunday, Oct. 4 and were preparing to leave for McCrady Army National Guard Training Center in Eastover.

'Third Herd' activated to help with flood assistance

Gregory A. Summers

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Twenty-nine members of the Third Herd in Lancaster were packing gear and road equipment on Monday, Oct. 5, to head south for flood-swollen areas of the Palmetto State.

S.C. National Guard Lt. Paul Bennett said the 178th Combat Engineers were called to state active duty about lunchtime Sunday, Oct. 4. By Monday, two convoy lines of road equipment, including bulldozers, backhoes and heavy trucks, flanked both

sides of the S.C. National Guard armory on Nichols Road and its parking lots full of cars.

The "Ground Breakers" next stop was McCrady Army National Guard Training Center in Eastover. From there, the unit will go where it's needed.

As of 5:30 p.m. Monday, the unit was awaiting specific orders.

"As it looks right now, we will be assisting with road clearing and getting utilities up and going," Bennett said. "We just aren't sure where we will be headed."

Between Friday, Oct. 2, and

Sunday, the Midlands and Low-country of the state were hit with record rainfall and flooding the likes of which have never been seen.

More than 24 inches of rain fell in Mount Pleasant, nearly 20 inches in areas around Charleston and more than 18 inches along the Gills Creek area of Columbia.

During a Monday morning national interview on NBC-TV, S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley called the deluge a "1,000-year storm."

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Storm

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As of 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, there were 301 road closures, 166 bridge closures, more than 30,000 power outages and 27 emergency shelters open across the state. Haley said the priority is getting much-needed supplies and drinking water to where it's needed.

"We've never seen anything like this before. We're used to rain on the coast," she said. "To see something like this in the Upstate and mountains isn't something we're used to."

The death toll across the state attributed to the storm had grown to 14 by 4 p.m. Tuesday.

About midnight Sunday, a swift water rescue team from Lancaster County Fire Rescue responded to Lugoff in Kershaw County to help with a call there. According to WLTX in Columbia, a woman had been freed, but McArthur Woods of Lugoff was missing after their car was swept up by rising flood waters.

The search for Woods was suspended about 2:30 a.m. Monday due to darkness, pelting rain and windy conditions that made the situation unsafe for rescue teams.

Woods was found by Lugoff firefighters late Monday morning.

"They did what they could," said Lancaster County Fire Marshal Stephen Blackwelder. "But it quickly turned from a rescue to a recovery."

Local closures

As of late Monday, only one road, Overbrook Road, near the Chesterfield County line and one bridge, Overbrook Road over Lynches River, were closed. According to the S.C. Department of Transportation,

pilings underneath the bridge are eroded and damaged, deeming it unsafe passage. According to SCDOT, the bridge is completely closed until further notice.

The county was in a flash flood watch much of the weekend. A flood warning was issued for portions of the county for several midday hours Sunday.

"We haven't had to do anything at all here," Blackwelder said. "As near

as we can tell, we had somewhere between 4 and 5 inches of rain. We got lucky in that it came over a period of time instead of all at once to overwhelm us."

Helen Sowell, interim administrator for the city of Lancaster, said a little more than 3 inches of rain was recorded at the wastewater treatment plant on Lockwood Lane. She said no problems were reported, even in areas along Hannah's Creek, which is known to swell outside its banks during periods of torrential rainfall.

"But it sure feels like we had more than that," Sowell said.

The same was true in Kershaw, said town administrator Tony Starnes.

"As far as I know, we've not had any problems or issues down this way, in town or out of town," he said.

Given the forecast, Lancaster County Administrator Steve Willis said Lancaster County Public Works was bracing for the worse. But with the exception of Henderson Road in the Oak Hill community and Pursuit Lane in Indian Land, there had been few issues.

Both were repaired with some minor grading work.

Willis said Gills Creek Drive, which is prone to wash away in heavy rain,

held up well.

"It was kind of close and that's one we were a little worried about, but it held up. I know we're going to be meeting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Army Corps of Engineers to evaluate more improvements in that area."

Tree falls on home

Some weren't as lucky, or maybe they were. Evergreen Road resident Joyce Brasington stayed home from Sunday morning worship at Pleasant Dale Baptist Church due to the weather. About noon, Brasington was in the living room watching TV with her daughter when she heard a big bang. She walked on the porch to find a large chinaberry tree had fallen on her house damaging the bedroom roof.

"It blew over from the roots," she said. "I started shaking all over and calling family. The last storm I remember like this was (Hurricane) Hugo."

Brasington said her son, Joseph, two sons-in-law Lee Weeks and Edward Outen and a grandson, Alex Brasington, bor-

rowed chain saws from neighbors and had the tree cut down and hole in the roof repaired in no time flat.

She is keeping the incident in perspective.

"I saw the Columbia news on television and they got it much worse than we did," she said.

Blackwelder said rescue workers here have been keeping a close eye on those same newscasts to keep up with what's happening elsewhere.

"We've gotten our fair share of rain the past few days, but nothing like other places," he said. "For now, our folks are in a holding pattern. If emergency management on the state level calls, we're going to step in to help."

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Contact copy editor Greg Summers at (803) 283-1156

Want to help with flood relief?

S.C. Emergency Management Division

COLUMBIA – For those who want to help with disaster efforts, the best way is by making a monetary contribution to a Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).

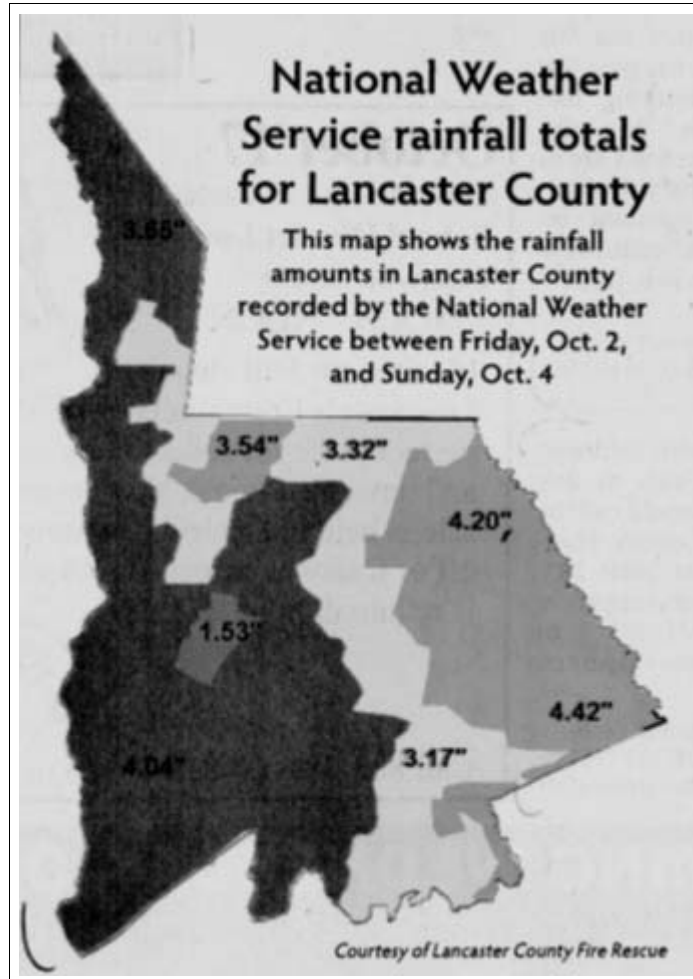
The agencies are listed on S.C. Emergency Management Division's website, <http://www.scemd.org/recovery-section/donations-and-volunteers>.

Cash, which can be immediately used in crisis response, allows organizations to procure and provide exactly what's needed and when it's needed where it's needed. Organized donations reduce transportation time and costs.

Those offering resources needed for response or recovery efforts, and those who can offer transportation for donations may contact Emergency Support Function (ESF) 18 at (803) 737-8518 or (803) 737-8875.

A list of needed and not needed items is available at www.scemd.org.

J



Left photo by ANNA HENSON/For The Lancaster News; right photo by GREGORY A. SUMMERS/gsummers@thelancasternews.com
Left, Britt Blackmon of Lancaster County Fire Rescue clears away limbs from a tree blocking Songbird Street on Saturday, Oct. 3. Right, about noon Sunday, Oct. 4, the wind combined with a saturated ground to uproot this chinaberry tree in the front yard of Joyce Brasington's home on Evergreen Road. Brasington and her daughter, Mary Brasington Staley were watching TV when the tree came crashing down, damaging a bedroom roof. "We were watching Robin Hood," Joyce Brasington said.

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148 Volunteers needed to help with flood debris removal

COLUMBIA – The United Way of South Carolina is asking for volunteers across the state who can help victims clean debris from their flood-stricken homes and sort the debris at the curb. United Way requests that volunteers register here: getconnected.uwasc.org/drm

"What we've seen over the last week is the very best in so many people across our state - neighbors helping neighbors is what South Carolina does best," said Governor Nikki Haley. "Team South Carolina is motivated, and that's a blessing, but what we need as we start the long process of cleaning up is volunteers. Whatever time you can give makes a difference."

"It is going to be hard, the work of recovery," said Timothy Ervolina, president and chief executive officer of United Way of South Carolina, noting how hard and how long a job this will be. "After the news has moved on and nobody is talking about the 1,000-year flood anymore, United Way will still be here in South Carolina. We will still be working hard to rebuild communities and lives. That's what we do."

Debris removal workers are asking homeowners to separate the debris into six categories to speed the removal process: household garbage, construction debris, vegetation, household hazardous waste, electronics, and appliances (white goods).

Debris removal will occur for the next several months, and volunteers can help by putting together Flood Buckets for survivors.

5 gallon bucket with sponges and scrub brushes, heavy duty gloves, retractable utility knife, mold control spray, bleach and disinfectant.

To find where to drop off the Flood Buckets, call the S.C. Baptist Convention Relief Center at (803) 227-6031.

Other organizations are coordinating activities to collect items of need. The S.C. Conference of the United Methodist Church is delivering health and school supply kits throughout the community.

The S.C. Baptist Convention has also developed a disaster relief mud-out training video with basic procedures for safely and effectively cleaning debris: <http://www.scbaptist.org/resources/video-library/disaster-relief---mud-out-training/156/>

Survivors of the 1,000-year-flood who need help should register as soon as possible with the Federal Emergency Management Agency at 1-800-261-FEMA. Flood survivors are also encouraged to call 211 to register with the United Way of South Carolina. They can help survivors find the best resources in their local community.

Work underway as SC recovers from massive floods

JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Life has started to return to normal in areas of South Carolina inundated by massive floods from days of rain earlier this month. But challenges still remain, including getting Columbia's water system back in shape and repairing bridges that are forcing Interstate 95 drivers on the East Coast into a more than two-hour detour.

WHAT NEEDS FIXING

The capital of Columbia continues to slowly fix its water system. Workers are trying to shore up the canal that the city uses to bring in drinking water after a breach nearly drained the waterway. They also are trying to finish fixing dozens of water line breaks caused by the massive floods earlier this month.

The city has been able to tell about 10 percent of its 375,000 customers they no longer have to boil water from their taps before drinking it.

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin said he's hopeful the city can lift the advisory for all customers in the next week or so.

"It's going to be very methodical, and it's going to be very conservative," he said in a phone interview, describing the process of lifting the advisory.

Repairs continue to the Columbia Canal, which the city uses to draw water into most of its system. The canal nearly ran dry after a breach during the floods. While the hole in the canal wall is repaired, city workers are also pumping water into the canal from the nearby Broad River.

The mayor said repairs are going well along the canal:

"I believe we might be a little bit ahead of schedule right now."

The boil water advisory for most of Columbia's water customers will continue until the supply of water is stabilized and repairs are made.

Work also continues to repair 13 small bridges on Interstate 95 in Clarendon County. A 16-mile stretch remains closed where the major East Coast highway goes through lowlands and swamps and over the Black and Pocotaligo rivers.

The South Carolina Department of Transportation said it hopes to have I-95 reopened in a few days. Drivers on I-95 currently have to take a 168-mile detour through Columbia instead of the normal 74-mile drive from Interstate 26 to Interstate 20.

RETURNING TO NORMAL

Perhaps the biggest sign that the flooding and problems were winding down came when South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley did not talk to reporters for the first time in more than a week.

Schools are also starting again. The University of South Carolina will welcome students back Monday after an unscheduled week break.

A number of local school districts are also returning, although some are delaying the start of school by two hours so buses can travel their new routes in daylight. Hundreds of bridges and roads across the state remain closed from flood damage.

Also, the South Carolina Department of Transportation will start sending contractors out to clean up debris left at the side of the road Monday. Local governments are doing the same.

DEATH TOLL

Nineteen people have died from flooding or weather-related traffic wrecks since the heavy rains started Oct. 2. Two more people died in North Carolina.

The latest deaths happened Thursday night in Horry County, where 27-year-old Shykimia Holman and 21-year-old Brianna Johnson died after the 2011 Honda they were in flipped into a water-filled ditch on state Highway 22 in Horry County. Both Orangeburg women drowned, authorities said.

All of the deaths in the storm happened in or near vehicles, officials said.

BIG EVENTS

Organizers of the South Carolina State Fair said it should begin as normal Wednesday.

The fair brings thousands of people every day to Columbia, and authorities said law enforcement and infrastructure should be ready.

The University of South Carolina had to move Saturday's football game against LSU to Louisiana because law enforcement said the officers needed for security and traffic control were too busy helping with the floods.

University athletic director Ray Tanner said Saturday that he is optimistic South Carolina will be able to host the next home game Saturday against Vanderbilt.

RAIN AGAIN

Heavy rain fell across much of South Carolina on Saturday, but officials didn't report any major damage.

Most of the state got at least an inch of rain. Normally, that wouldn't be a problem. But much of the rain turned into standing pools with the ground still saturated. In some areas, as

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much as 4 inches of water fell, causing road closures.	sunny all week across South Carolina.		
The forecast looks good for cleanup. Other than a small chance of light rain Tuesday, skies should be			<i>Associated Press writer Jonathan Drew in Raleigh, N.C., contributed to this re-</i>
			<i>port.</i>

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148 Supporting worthwhile causes

By **JOE L. HUGHES II**
Ledger Staff Writer
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Don't expect what transpires on the field Friday night at The Reservation to be the only thing on the minds of York and Gaffney fans.

After a deluge of rain pelted areas from the Midlands to the Lowcountry over the course of the past week, horrific scenes of floodwaters destroying roads, property and lives have become all too real.

"Having coached in the Columbia area for about 20 years, it hurt to see a neighborhood my family and I call home flooded," said George Duncan, sponsor for the Gaffney High School teacher cadets. "It is in about two feet of water. Hearing stories and seeing pictures, it really is heartbreaking."

However, Duncan said tragedy tends to reveal something beautiful about South Carolina, in particular its resiliency and kindness of heart to help a friend in need.

As fans of both high schools prepare to file in for Friday night's activities at The Reservation, they are being asked to bring water to donate to those without due to recent flooding.

"We have already spoken

with those at York High School and they are on board," Duncan said. "We hope to be able to collect some water and send a big trailer down to the portions of the state in need."

Plans to ask local football fans to donate what water they could developed quickly, largely due to reports and pictures of areas shut down due to what Gov. Nikki Haley termed as "a one-in-a-thousand-years" flood. This comes on a night when the school was already bringing another cause to the forefront, if anything letting all know the catches on the field of play pale in comparison to some of those made off it.

For the third consecutive year, a Gaffney High School home football game has been designated as a "Crucial Catch" event. Those in attendance Friday

night are asked to wear pink, standing in solidarity in the fight against breast cancer and other forms of the disease.

Each of the past two events have helped raised several hundred dollars, all of which went to the American Cancer Society.

The idea was launched in 2013 when local cancer survivor George Barber

brought the idea of "Crucial Catch" to the attention of local Relay for Life officials, taking a page from the Carolina Panthers' playbook and its campaign for a similar cause.

This year, the professional football organization has lent a hand to help the cause in Cherokee County. Pink banners, pom-poms for cheerleaders and others items will be visible throughout The Reservation on Friday night, courtesy of the Panthers.

Pink has served as the general theme during the past month, October serving as Breast Cancer

Awareness month.

Gaffney football players over the past few weeks have worn pink items with their uniforms, ranging from headbands and mouthpieces to gloves and socks.

Relay volunteers and Gaffney High U.S. Army JROTC cadets will be placed at the entrance of each gate as well as the booster club building prior to the game, collecting money, all of which will go to the American Cancer Society. There will also be megaphones and T-shirts on sale, the proceeds of which will also go toward the same cause.



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148 **THEIR VIEW**

State must reduce domestic violence

South Carolina once again has ranked worst in the nation for deadly violence against women. This is the fourth time that the state has ranked first and the 18th consecutive year it has ranked in the top 10.

But South Carolina cannot accept this as our destiny. And, with significant changes in state law regarding penalties for domestic violence and ongoing attention to the problem, the state finally appears to be taking steps to reduce the violence against women.

According to rankings released Tuesday by the Violence Policy Center, South Carolina had a rate of 2.32 women killed per 100,000 in 2013, the worst in the nation. That's more than twice the national average and represents 57 known deaths, compared with 50 a year earlier, when the state ranked second in the nation in the number of women killed by men.

But earlier this year, state lawmakers passed a substantive domestic violence bill that increased penalties for those convicted of criminal domestic violence. The effort also was supported by both Gov. Nikki Haley and S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson, who lobbied hard for reforms.

Haley created a special task force, which still is in place, to study the causes of domestic violence and find ways to reduce it. Wilson was joined by local prosecutors from across the state who worked with him to bring about new and stiffer penalties for domestic abusers.

Victim advocate groups also were effective in calling for changes. When

lobbying lawmakers, they noted that penalties were greater for hunting out of season than for domestic abuse.

The bill passed by the Legislature gave prosecutors and judges more options in dealing with domestic abuse. The new law creates a four-tiered system of possible crimes with which suspects can be charged, ranging from a misdemeanor with a possible 90-day sentence to a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

And those convicted of the most serious charges could be barred from owning a gun for up to a decade.

But while these changes in the law are a crucial step in dealing with domestic abuse, the state's high rate of violence is not likely to change until we also address the root causes of violence against women.

We are encouraged that Haley's task force, which has been meeting all year, has proposed dozens of wide-ranging recommendations that promote a comprehensive approach to the problem. Proposals include training and hiring more 911 operators, improving documentation of the crime scene and increasing the number of shelters for abused women and their children statewide.

In addition to changing the law, we also must change the culture. We must encourage friends and neighbors to report domestic abuse when they see evidence of it. We need to teach young males nonviolent ways to resolve domestic disputes. We need to provide more safe havens for abused women so they can leave violent relationships. We need to teach law enforcement officers the most effective ways to handle cases of domestic abuse in the field and later, when questioning victims and suspects.

While South Carolina has a long way to go, changes taken this year appear likely to yield results. With hard work, maybe the state finally can lose its ranking among the top-10 states for domestic violence.

— *The (Rock Hill) Herald*

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**Remember Her Name will bring awareness
of criminal domestic violence to Clinton area**

Two women whose daughters were killed in domestic violence crimes in 2013 will participate Monday in a program titled "Remember Her Name" in Clinton.

Emily Joy, whose daughter EA Asbill died in Clinton, and Lynn Greenway, whose daughter Allyson Greenway died in Newberry County, will speak about how their families' encounter with CDV has affected their lives. Remember Her Name will be from 6 to 8 p.m. at Sonic in Clinton.

Joy and Greenway lost their daughters eight months and just 17 miles apart. They are speaking in observance of October as Domestic Violence Month. Other speakers will include Elizabeth Gray of Columbia, Valerie Nelson of Clinton, a CDV survivor, Michael Polson, a Laurens Police officer, and music will be provided by Travis Smith, a native of Woodruff who has recorded two CDs.

Nelson and Polson are board members of the EA's Love for

Life Foundation. Gray recently was appointed to a statewide domestic violence task force led by Gov. Nikki Haley.

A mother of two and Marine Corps veteran with more than 10 years experience with CDV, Gray has spoken to the SC General Assembly twice to help pass domestic violence reform law and was featured in an ESPN Behind the Lines special about domestic violence. The SC Criminal Justice Academy uses her story, including 13 police reports, to educate up to 19,000 officers each year about domestic violence.

Gray was awarded Woman of the Year in 2014 by Sister Care Inc., a program for battered women. "Elizabeth has been recognized for her community outreach to victims and survivors, empowering them through her voice, her faith and her love of running marathons," Joy said.

"As a motivational speaker and professional consultant on domestic violence issues, Eliza-

beth continues to use her voice to encourage and educate others. Her goal is to bring awareness of domestic violence by running a marathon in all 50 states."

Gray originally was from Colorado Springs, Co., and now lives in Columbia.

Proceeds from this event will benefit Sister's Care, a safe home that serves Newberry County which, like Laurens County, is in the 8th Judicial Circuit. The first 40 people to bring an item for Sister's Care (baby food, wipes, etc.) or an old cell phone will receive a coupon for a free medium Slush. Verizon repairs these cell phones for CDV victims.

Also, Sonic will donate 20 percent of its sales Monday night to the EA's Love for Life Foundation and the Allyson Greenway Hope Scholarship, which help domestic violence victims in emergency situations in Laurens and Newberry counties.



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148 S.C. Editorial Roundup The Post and Courier, Charleston on rainstorm in state

Catastrophic rainstorms like this one happen only every thousand years, climate and weather experts explained as unprecedented flooding forced people out of their homes, closed roads and submerged stalled vehicles. One can only hope that assessment holds true.

At least 17 people have died as a result of the floodwaters. A week ago, more than 500 roads were closed to traffic statewide and 26,000 South Carolinians were without power.

It was, as Gov. Nikki Haley said, "a storm of historic proportions." It could have been much worse.

Across South Carolina, employees of local, state and federal agencies worked alongside volunteers on Monday to rescue stranded people and pets. Shelters housed those forced from their homes, and first responders patrolled neighborhoods in boats and amphibious vehicles checking on residents. The National Guard rescued people by helicopter.

The effectiveness and dedication of emergency personnel have been remarkable. Their actions have been nothing short of heroic in many instances.

In the Charleston area, the official response to flooding evolved quickly and efficiently as the heaviest rain began falling in the Lowcountry on Oct. 3. Proactive efforts like closing the Charleston peninsula, which required an emergency ordinance passed by the City Council on Oct. 3, undoubtedly saved thousands from traffic tie-ups, vehicle damage or worse.

But with floodwaters receding in Charleston a week ago, residents of the Midlands region of the state were still dealing with waters so high they approached rooftops in some areas. That afternoon, broken dams outside Columbia forced mandatory evacuations of some neighborhoods.

And rainwater flowing from regions farther upstate threatened to exacerbate the situation.

South Carolina's highways also suffered severe damage from the storm. Far from simple cracks and potholes, entire chunks of roads and bridges collapsed and washed away.

Of course, many of the roads with the worst damage were already in deplorable shape long before the storm hit. As if further impetus were needed, the widespread destruction caused by this storm should spur the South Carolina Legislature to enact needed measures that will allow the state to shore up crumbling roads and bridges.

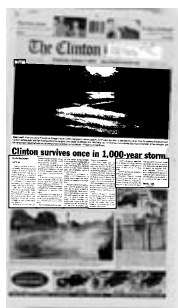
Dams, sea walls, ditches and drainage infrastructure will also need improvements and reinforcements to help protect against the next serious storm system.

In the Lowcountry, gradually rising sea levels threaten to turn even much smaller storms into dangerous disasters. Mitigating the effects of future floods should be a top priority for every new development, road or infrastructure project in the Charleston area.

It will likely take days or even weeks to fully understand the scope of the damage done to this state. Undoubtedly, it will be shocking.

"This is one for the record books," local Clemson Extension agent Charles W. Davis Jr. told our reporter. "We've had rain events before, and they were never very pretty, but this is the one the old-timers are going to talk about. It's a shipwreck."

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Water runoff. When the pond at Presbyterian College's Harper Center (background) reaches capacity, runoff water goes down a bank and into a drain. Over the weekend throughout South Carolina, standing water and flash flooding prove to be dangerous and deadly. By Monday, Gov. Nikki Haley said no one should commute into Columbia or Charleston on the interstates, and the transportation department advised canceling schools so bridges can be checked. -- Photos by Vic MacDonald

Clinton survives once in 1,000-year storm

By Vic MacDonald

Staff Writer

Sunday was World Communion Sunday, and Clinton was not going to let a little thing like the 1,000-year flood get in the way of church. Morning service at First Presbyterian Church was about to start, while the American Red Cross Disaster Assistance Team was setting up a shelter in the church's Christian Life Center.

The Red Cross responded with its Laurens County shelter because residents of the Lydia Mill community were advised by the city to evacuate. Heavy rain Saturday night and into Sunday morning was making streets there very dangerous.

If the rain continued through

Sunday and into the night, city officials were not sure they could get everybody out safely.

By Monday morning, though, the Lydia Mill streets were passable because, thankfully, the rain in Clinton stopped Sunday afternoon, measuring out about nine inches.

It was still raining in Greenwood on Monday, however, and several roads there already had been washed away. The Hwy 176 bridge in the Pomaria community of neighboring Newberry County disappeared into massive flood waters.

It seemed every other drop of rain that fell for four days over South Carolina landed in Columbia. A foot of rain was recorded there.

Eleven people died. One fatal-

ity was earlier in Spartanburg. Four people from Indiana died in a plane crash at Lake Hartwell. They were flying in to attend the Clemson-Notre Dame football game, played Saturday night in a virtual monsoon.

Fatalities in Columbia included a SC Department of Transportation supervisor whose vehicle was swept away in a flash flood.

"We know about snow and ice storms and the destruction they cause, but we aren't so familiar with flood damage. Snow doesn't creep under doorways and into home and business, or carry cars away, or destroy roads and bridges in a day. God bless our brothers and sisters in SC and elsewhere who are devastated by this," the City of Clinton said

Sunday in a statement.

Gov. Nikki Haley said, "We cannot encourage you enough to stay home and stay off the roads so that our first responders and utility and maintenance crews can get their jobs done. Team South Carolina continues to be all hands on deck as we work through this. The heroes in this situation continue to be our first responders, DOT maintenance crews, and our utility workers. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to work in these dangerous conditions."

Districts 56 and 55 canceled classes Monday, at the request of the SC Department of Transportation. DOT said it could not



assure the public that every bridge in South Carolina is safe enough for bus travel.

Laurens Academy and Piedmont Technical College canceled classes. Laurens county government worked on a two-hour delay.

South Carolina was declared a

federal disaster area.

President Obama's disaster declaration says the action, "authorizes FEMA to coordinate all disaster relief efforts that have the purpose of alleviating the hard-

ship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population, and to provide appropriate

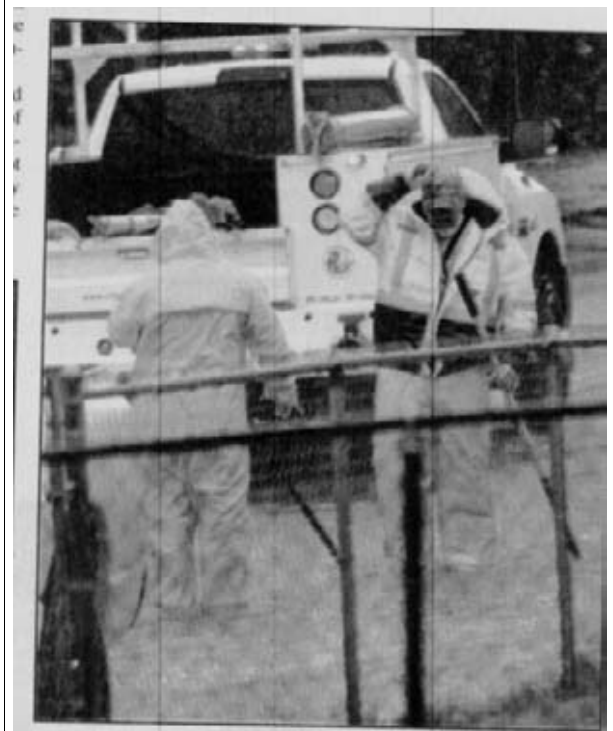
assistance for required emergency measures ... to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in all counties of the State of South

Storm, 12A

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Hazards of standing water. As torrential rains begin Saturday morning, this area of standing water on Broad Street by the railroad track, right beside the Clinton city center marker, is an annoyance for drivers. - Photos by Vic MacDonald



Sunday morning work. Clinton Public Works and Public Safety personnel spent Sunday morning doing door to door checks on residents of the Lydia Mill community and clearing drains so standing water could run off and clear streets. An American Red Cross shelter was opened at First Presbyterian Church's Christian Life Center for anyone whose house was flooded.





Storm

From 1A

Carolina and the Catawba Nation.”

On Sunday, City of Clinton advisories on Facebook included “Crews are out working to try to clear as much as possible from storm drains but the amount of water is just too much for the system to handle,” and “The City is switching to Duncan Creek Reservoir for raw water and temporarily shutting down the Enoree River Pump Station due to flooding.”

The four-day rain storm wrecked Main Street Laurens’ Squealin’ on the Square festival. Some vendors moved indoors, to the new Laurens County Museum headquarters on Main Street. Kansas City Barbecue competitors tried to tough it out, but there were no customers out in the driving rain storm to buy their barbecue. Saturday afternoon, barbecue competition organizers declared Victory Smokers as the Grand Champion and The Smokehouse Mafia as the Reserve Champion.

By Sunday morning, people were walking and driving over the Little River bridge near the amphitheater to look at the river overflowing its banks. The City of Laurens closed East Main Street and streets around the river as the structural integrity of the bridges could not be guaranteed.

About 15 roads in Laurens County were closed to traffic.

By Monday morning, Clinton High Athletics announced it

would not even travel to Laurens to play games. The volleyball match at Laurens District High School was cancelled, along with home JV football against Broome, already delayed from Thursday, Clinton Middle School volleyball at Hickory Tavern and girls tennis at Union County. No make-up dates were immediately announced.

Yesterday’s home cross-country meet against Chester, Union and Southside was rescheduled for Thursday, 5 p.m. at Clinton High.

The City of Clinton went ahead with its council meeting Monday evening.

City Manager Stovall said the public deserves a lot of the credit for allowing city personnel to do their jobs efficiently during the storm. He says in a column published in today’s Clinton Chronicle on Page 11A:

“Thanks to you, power was restored to the majority of our customers in short order, with nearly everyone restored within a few hours.

“There are things that you will never see during a storm from the comfort of your home. You didn’t see our team of personnel who worked inside the Enoree River Raw Water pumping station as the water rose and ultimately flooded it to remove over \$100,000 worth of motors and equipment and get it to higher ground so that we wouldn’t waste your tax and utility dollars replacing it after the flood.”

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Breaking its banks. The City of Laurens closed streets around Little River Park to prevent traffic from going across two bridges until the structures can be inspected for potential damage from flooding. The 500-year flood - Gov. Nikki Haley said Sunday it was a once in 1,000 years flood - this past weekend sent water well above the banks of Little River Sunday morning.
-- Photo by Vic MacDonald