

# South Carolina dodges hurricane, gets slammed by epic rainstorm

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — People across South Carolina got an object lesson Monday in how you can dodge a hurricane and still get hammered.

Authorities struggled to get water to communities swamped by it, and with waterlogged dams overflowing, bridges collapsing, hundreds of roads inundated and floodwaters rolling down to the coast, the state was anything but done with this disaster.

"This is a Hugo-level event," said Maj. Gen. Robert Livingston, head of the South Carolina National Guard, referring to the September 1989 hurricane that devastated Charleston. "We didn't see this level of erosion in Hugo. ... This water doesn't fool around."

Much-feared Hurricane Joaquin missed the East Coast, but fueled what experts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration called a "fire hose" of tropical moisture that aimed directly at the state. A solid week of rainfall has killed at least 10 people in South Carolina and two in North Carolina, and sent about 1,000 to shelters. About 40,000 have been left without drinkable water.

One of the latest to die was McArthur Woods, 56, who drove around a barricade and drowned Sunday night. His passenger managed to climb on top of the sedan, which stalled in the rushing water. A firefighter rescued her after someone heard her screams.

"She came out the window. How she got on top of the car



AP Photo/Mic Smith

**Jeanni Adame rides in her boat as she checks on neighbors seeing if they want to evacuate in the Ashborough subdivision near Summerville, S.C., after many of their neighbors left, Monday. South Carolina is still struggling with flood waters due to a slow moving storm system.**

and stayed there like she did with that water—there's a good Lord," Kershaw County Coroner David West said.

By Monday, the heaviest rains had moved into the mid-Atlantic states. Along the Jersey Shore, some beaches devastated by Superstorm Sandy three years ago lost most of their sand to the wind, rain and high surf.

South Carolina authorities mostly switched Monday from search and rescue into "assessment and recovery mode," but Gov. Nikki Haley warned citizens to remain careful as a "wave" of water swelled downstream and dams had to be opened to prevent catastrophic failures above low-lying neighborhoods near the capital.

"South Carolina has gone through a storm of historic proportions," Haley said. "Just because the rain stops, does

hoods were spared: One mansion's swimming pool was filled with a yellowish broth.

South Carolina is accustomed to water, but not like this.

The state hosts 30,000 miles of rivers and streams that mostly run from the Appalachians to the sea, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It also has another 24,000 miles of "perennial waterways" — streams that are usually dry but can turn deadly in flash floods. Now swollen by a week of rain, they have carved new channels through an aging infrastructure.

According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, 1,048 of the 9,275 bridges were structurally deficient before this storm. Some 550 roads and bridges remained closed Monday, including nearly 75 miles of Interstate 95. The governor said they will need close inspection to ensure they're safe.

Some towns were entirely cut off. About 60 miles southeast of the capital, all four roads leading into the county seat of Manning were closed, isolating 4,000 people. Many smaller communities in Clarendon County are in a similar predicament, Sheriff Randy Garrett said.

"I'm the sheriff of a bunch of islands," Garrett said. The National Guard's Blackhawk helicopters were the best — and only — way to reach some places, and authorities were just starting to identify "vulnerable areas that may not be completely obvious," said Livingston, a two-star general.

## BRIEFLY

### U.S. cargo ship with 33 aboard sank during hurricane; 1 body found

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — The captain of the 790-foot El Faro planned to bypass Hurricane Joaquin, but some kind of mechanical failure left the U.S. container ship with 33 people aboard helplessly — and tragically — adrift in the path of the powerful storm, the vessel's owners say.

On Monday, four days after the ship vanished, the Coast Guard concluded it sank near the Bahamas in about 15,000 feet of water. One unidentified body in a survival suit was recovered, and the search went on for any trace of the other crew members.

Survival suits help mariners float and stay warm. But even with the water temperature at 85 degrees, hypothermia can set in quickly, Coast Guard Capt. Mark Fedor said. He noted that the hurricane had winds of about 140 mph and waves topping 50 feet.

"These are trained mariners. They know how to abandon ship," Fedor said. But "those are challenging conditions to survive."

The ship, carrying cars and other products, had 28 crew members from the U.S. and five from Poland.

### Afghans requested U.S. airstrike that killed innocents at Kunduz hospital

WASHINGTON (AP) — Afghan forces who reported being under Taliban fire requested the U.S. airstrike that killed 22 people at a medical clinic in northern Afghanistan over the weekend, the top commander of American and coalition forces in Afghanistan said Monday, correcting an initial U.S. statement that the strike had been launched because U.S. forces were threatened.

The strike wasn't sought by U.S. forces, Gen. John F. Campbell said at a hastily arranged Pentagon news conference.

"We have now learned that on Oct. 3, Afghan forces advised that they were taking fire from enemy positions and asked for air support from U.S. forces," Campbell said. "An airstrike was then called to eliminate the Taliban threat and several civilians were accidentally struck. This is different from the initial reports, which indicated that U.S. forces were threatened and that the airstrike was called on their behalf."

The clinic was operated by the medical charity Doctors Without Borders. The attack killed at least 22 people and wounded dozens more, setting the hospital on fire.

# Shooter rants in manifesto about having no girlfriend

Some students, staff return to campus Monday

ROSEBURG (AP) — The gunman who executed nine people at an Oregon community college before killing himself ranted in a manifesto he left behind about not having a girlfriend and thinking everyone else was "crazy," a law enforcement official said Monday.

The official also said the mother of 26-year-old gunman Christopher Harper-Mercer has told investigators he was struggling with some mental health issues. The official is familiar with the investigation but wasn't authorized to speak publicly because it is ongoing.

Harper-Mercer complained in the manifesto about not having a girlfriend, and he seemed to feel like he was very rational while others around him were not, the official said.

He wrote something to the effect of: "Other people think I'm crazy, but I'm not. I'm the sane one," the official said. The manifesto was a couple of pages long.

Also Monday, some faculty, staff and students returned to the campus for the first time since the shooting, while President Barack Obama announced he will travel to Oregon to visit privately with victims' families.

Classes do not resume at Umpqua Community College until next week, but some students came to the campus to pick up belongings they left behind Thursday when they fled. Others met with professional groups to discuss their trauma and grief.

A memorial was growing on the driveway leading to Snyder Hall, where Harper-Mercer opened fire. Besides those who died, nine people were wounded. Harper-Mercer killed himself after a shootout with police.

"It was hard not to focus on Snyder



AP Photo/John Locher

**People pray outside of Snyder Hall at Umpqua Community College, Monday in Roseburg. The campus reopened on a limited basis for faculty and students for the first time since armed suspect Chris Harper-Mercer killed multiple people and wounded several others on Thursday before taking his own life at Snyder Hall.**

Hall," student Joel Mitchell said. "When we got back, I think a lot of people were probably ... looking at it, checking it out, seeing what it looked like."

A group of eight held hands and bowed their heads in prayer in front of the building. Elsewhere, clusters of people chatted at picnic tables or near buildings.

In a courtyard near the center of campus, a therapy dog sat on a blanket with its handler. A woman, crouched down, wiped away a tear.

At least one student injured in the shooting was among those who returned Monday, college President Rita Cavin said. She did not identify the student.

Reporters were barred from campus but taken on a brief tour. School officials designated an outdoor amphitheater as a makeshift memorial, open only to staff and students for now. Flowers and balloons were positioned on tables, and

markers were available for people to write messages on a banner that says, "UCC Strong."

"I needed to be here," student Madyson Sanchez said. "I needed to come and see my friends, make sure they're OK."

Chaplains who had been on campus said they were both helping with and participating in the healing process.

"I'm going through the grieving process myself because this has touched everyone in the community," chaplain Russell Wilson said. "If you don't know someone that goes here, you know someone that knows someone."

Meanwhile, Obama said he will visit Roseburg on Friday as he opens a four-day trip to the West Coast. No additional details about his visit were immediately available.

Obama has renewed his call for stricter gun laws following the shooting and has expressed exasperation at the frequency of mass shootings in the U.S.

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# Lawmakers mull 'claw back' for loss of tax credit profit

By **HILLARY BORRUD**  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon lawmakers might consider legislation in 2016 to claw back some of the profits realized by wealthy individuals and companies who purchased deeply discounted energy tax credits.

Gov. Kate Brown last month asked the Legislature to review energy tax credits, after news reports that officials at the Oregon Department of Energy allowed tax credit recipients to ignore state price regulations and sell the tax credits at negotiated prices.

Oregon issues tax credits as an incentive to renewable energy and efficiency projects to help offset capital costs. Recipients can use them to reduce taxes, or sell them to raise cash. Many tax credit recipients are governments and companies that do not owe state taxes, and the Legislature has passed laws that required the Department of Energy to adopt a formula to set sales prices. The goal was to ensure most of the benefit from the incentives went to the energy projects.

"I'm thinking about a potential clawback," state Rep. Phil Barnhart, D-Springfield, said after a meeting on the issue on Sept. 29. Barnhart is chair of the House Interim Committee On Revenue. Barnhart said he had not figured out the details, but the concept was based on questions asked by Rep. John Davis, R-Wilsonville, about "what our recourse is at this point."

Davis asked senior deputy legislative counsel Kate Toss-

will whether the Legislature can make changes to tax credits which have already been issued to public and private organizations that pursued renewable energy and efficiency projects. Tosswill said that tax credits are a matter of "legislative grace," meaning that because lawmakers created the credits, they have some degree of discretion to make changes after-the-fact. Those changes would not breach a contract, and would not necessarily constitute a taking of someone's property.

It was unclear how much money might be at stake during hearings on the issue last week. However, an analysis of Oregon Department of Energy data by the FO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group Capital Bureau suggests that the agency's decision to ignore price regulations for one type of energy tax credit resulted in as much as \$1.2 million in underpayments.

Tax credit recipients have sold roughly \$6.4 million in tax credits issued through the state's energy incentive program, which rewards alternative fuel projects, school retrofits and transit districts. Purchasers would have paid approximately \$6.1 million if the Department of Energy had required them to follow price regulations. Instead the purchasers paid around \$4.9 million for the credits. The energy department has also issued tax credits that could be sold in the future, and a senior economist in the Legislative Revenue Office told lawmakers legislation could impact a total of approximately \$44 million in energy incentive program tax credits.

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