

# ‘Big and vicious’: Hurricane Florence closes in on Carolinas

By JONATHAN DREW  
Associated Press

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP) — Motorists streamed inland on highways converted to one-way evacuation routes Tuesday as about 1.7 million people in three states were warned to get out of the way of Hurricane Florence, a hair-raising storm taking dead aim at the Carolinas with 140 mph winds and potentially ruinous rains.

Florence was expected to blow ashore late Thursday or early Friday, then slow down and wring itself out for days, unloading 1 to 2½ feet of rain that could cause flooding well inland and wreak environmental havoc by washing over industrial waste sites and hog farms.

Forecasters and politicians pleaded with the public to take the warnings seriously and minced no words in describing the threat.

“This storm is a monster. It’s big and it’s vicious. It is an extremely, dangerous, life-threatening, historic hurricane,” North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said.

He added: “The waves and the wind this storm may bring is nothing like you’ve ever seen. Even if you’ve ridden out storms before, this one is different. Don’t bet your life on riding out a monster.”

Some hoped for divine intervention.

“I’m prayed up and as ready as I can get,” Steven Hendrick said as he filled up gasoline cans near Conway, South Carolina.

More than 5.4 million people live in areas under hurricane warnings or watches on the U.S. East Coast, according to the National Weather Service, and another 4 million people were under a tropical storm watch.

President Donald Trump declared states of emergency for North and South Carolina and Virginia, opening the way for federal aid. He said



AP Photo/Chuck Burton

**People drive over a drawbridge in Wrightsville Beach, N.C., as they evacuate the area in advance of Hurricane Florence, Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2018. Florence exploded into a potentially catastrophic hurricane Monday as it closed in on North and South Carolina, carrying winds up to 140 mph and water that could wreak havoc over a wide stretch of the eastern United States later this week.**

the federal government is “absolutely, totally prepared” for Florence.

All three states ordered mass evacuations along the coast. But getting out of harm’s way could prove difficult.

Florence is so wide that a life-threatening storm surge was being pushed 300 miles ahead of its eye, and so wet that a swath from South Carolina to Ohio and Pennsylvania could get deluged.

People across the region rushed to buy bottled water and other supplies, board up their homes, pull their boats out of the water and get out of town.

A line of heavy traffic moved away from the coast on Interstate 40, the main route between the port city of Wilmington and inland Raleigh. Between the two cities, about two hours apart, the traffic flowed smoothly in places and became gridlocked in others because of fender-benders.

Only a trickle of vehicles was going in the opposite direction, including pickup trucks carrying plywood and other building materials.

Long lines formed at service stations, and some started running out of gas as far west as Raleigh, with bright yellow bags, signs or rags placed over the pumps to show they were out of order. Some store shelves were picked clean.

“There’s no water. There’s no juices. There’s no canned goods,” Kristin Harrington said as she shopped at a Walmart in Wilmington.

At 8 p.m., the storm was centered 725 miles southeast of Cape Fear, North Carolina, moving at 17 mph. It was a potentially catastrophic Category 4 storm but was expected to keep drawing energy from the warm water and intensify to near Category 5, which means winds of 157 mph or higher.

Florence is the most dangerous of three tropical sys-

tems in the Atlantic. Tropical Storm Isaac was east of the Lesser Antilles and expected to pass south of Puerto Rico, Hispaniola and Cuba, while Hurricane Helene was moving northward away from land. Forecasters also were tracking two other disturbances.

The coastal surge from Florence could leave the eastern tip of North Carolina under more than 9 feet of water in spots, projections showed.

“This one really scares me,” National Hurricane Center Director Ken Graham said.

Federal officials begged residents to put together emergency kits and have a plan on where to go.

“This storm is going to knock out power days into weeks. It’s going to destroy infrastructure. It’s going to destroy homes,” said Jeff Byard, an official at the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

## Nike CEO takes public stance on sanctuary law repeal

By PARIS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau

Just as Nike made Colin Kaepernick the face of its “Just Do It” 30th anniversary campaign, Nike CEO Mark Parker has taken a public stance to save Oregon’s 30-year-old sanctuary law.

In the Oregon Voters’ Guide, released Tuesday, Parker wrote an argument in opposition to Ballot Measure 105, which seeks to repeal the state law that prohibits the use of state and local resources to enforce federal immigration law.

“Nike employs people from all over the world; we can attest to the unique value, contributions and innovations that people from diverse backgrounds add to Nike and to Oregon’s culture and economy,” wrote. “Ending Oregon’s sanctuary law will damage Oregon’s longstanding track record as a place that attracts diverse talent from across the globe.”

Social activism against racial profiling and injustice

is a common theme between the Kaepernick ad and the campaign opposing Measure 105.

Kaepernick, a former quarterback with the San Francisco 49ers, declined to stand during the national anthem to protest police shootings of African-Americans. The motto of the Nike ad, released earlier this month, is “Believe in something even if it means sacrificing everything.”

Similarly, state legislators passed the sanctuary law in 1987 in response to a spate of racial profiling of immigrants by police in the preceding decade.

In one high-profile case in 1977, Delmiro Trevino, a U.S. citizen of Mexican descent, was arrested in a restaurant in Independence because police suspected that he was undocumented. He later filed a class action suit.

His lawyer, Rocky Barilla, won election as a state representative in 1986, marking the first time a Latino was elected to that position in the state’s history. He intro-

duced the legislation that enacted the sanctuary law, which passed with bipartisan support.

Parker’s statement was one of a trio of high-profile Oregon corporate leaders who wrote against Measure 105 in the voters’ guide. Others were Tim Boyle, CEO of Columbia Sportswear Co. and Amy Prosenjak, president of A to Z Wineworks.

More than 400 companies have endorsed the opposition campaign against Measure 105, said Andrea Williams, executive director of Cause, a statewide immigrant rights organization.

“What we are seeing is prominent companies are standing up for justice issues,” Williams said. “I know Nike, for example, has been a longtime supporter of nondiscrimination causes, including marriage equality. Its support of Measure 105 is in line with its overall values as a company and also is aligned with where they are based, in Oregon, so I think Oregonians will appreciate

that a homegrown company is in support of our values of fairness and standing up against discrimination.”

Rick LaMountain of Oregonians for Immigration Reform — a backer of Measure 105 — said Parker’s statement misses the point of the ballot measure.

“I disagree strongly with that statement,” LaMountain said. “We are not targeting everybody from everywhere. We are only wanting immigration law to be enforced by allowing our police and sheriff’s deputies to back up federal authorities. We don’t have a problem with people from other countries as long as they abide by and respect our sovereign laws.”

Since its founding, Nike has had only two CEOs. The first CEO, Phil Knight, has contributed \$1.5 million to the campaign of state Rep. Knute Buehler, the GOP nominee for Oregon governor. In a July interview with conservative radio host Lars Larson, Buehler endorsed the repeal of the sanctuary law.

### BRIEFLY

#### AP FACT CHECK: Obama was harsh against leakers in his administration

WASHINGTON (AP) — Barack Obama’s recent denunciation of President Donald Trump’s treatment of the press overlooks the aggressive steps the Justice Department took to keep information from the public when he was president. Obama also made a problematic claim that Republican “sabotage” has cost 3 million people their health insurance.

With his return to the political donnybrook on behalf of Democrats in the November elections, Obama has brought a once-familiar style back into the discourse. It’s measured, nuanced and distinct from the torrent of misstatements from Trump. That doesn’t mean Obama always tells the story straight.

Obama campaigned in Illinois and California last week, with more politicking planned. Here’s a look at some of his remarks:

OBAMA: “It shouldn’t be Democratic or Republican to say that we don’t threaten the freedom of the press because they say things or publish stories we don’t like. I complained plenty about Fox News, but you never heard me threaten to shut them down or call them enemies of the people.” — rally Friday at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

THE FACTS: Trump may use extraordinary rhetoric to undermine trust in the press, but Obama arguably went farther — using extraordinary actions to block the flow of information to the public.

#### Elizabeth Smart outraged 1 of her kidnappers to be freed

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A woman convicted of helping a former street preacher kidnap Elizabeth Smart in 2002 will be freed from prison more than five years earlier than expected, a surprise decision that Smart called “incomprehensible” on Tuesday.

Wanda Barzee, 72, will be released Sept. 19 after the Utah Board of Pardons and Parole determined it had miscalculated the time she was required to serve in prison, board spokesman Greg Johnson said.

Barzee pleaded guilty to kidnapping Smart and helping keep her captive for nine months before the then-teenager was found and rescued.

Smart, now 30, said in a statement she was “surprised and disappointed” to learn that Barzee will be freed next week. She said she’s exploring her options and plans to speak publicly in the coming days.

“It is incomprehensible how someone who has not cooperated with her mental health evaluations or risk assessments and someone who did not show up to her own parole hearing can be released into our community,” Smart said.

#### Woodward book goes on sale as former Trump aides push back

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new White House tell-all from journalist Bob Woodward, the election season’s most-talked-about political book, officially went on sale Tuesday as several former aides of President Donald Trump sought to distance themselves from the depiction of a chaotic West Wing.

Former White House staff secretary Rob Porter and onetime economic adviser Gary Cohn both pushed back against “Fear,” which portrays a White House mired in dysfunction, with aides disparaging the Republican president and working to prevent him from making disastrous decisions.

While neither former staffer directly denied details in the book, Porter said in a statement that the book offers a “selective and often misleading portrait.” And Cohn told Axios that the “book does not accurately portray my experience at the White House.”

Speaking to reporters in the White House on Tuesday, Trump praised his former aides’ supportive statements and again labeled the book “fiction.”

Woodward, a longtime *Washington Post* reporter, has staunchly defended his work in an extensive media tour.

#### Apple expected to unveil bigger, pricier iPhone on Wednesday

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple is expected to unveil its biggest and most expensive iPhone on Wednesday as part of a lineup of three new models aimed at widening the product’s appeal amid slowing sales growth.

Most of the buzz is swirling around a rumored iPhone that is supposed to boast a 6.5-inch OLED screen, up from 5.8 inches on the existing iPhone X. OLED is a step up from traditional LCD technology in offering a display without a backlight, so black is truly black rather than simply dark.

If the speculation pans out, the even-bigger iPhone would represent Apple’s attempt to feed consumers’ appetite for increasingly bigger screens as they rely on smartphones to watch and record video, as well as take photos wherever they are.

The iPhone X, a dramatically redesigned model released last fall, got rid of the home button and introduced facial-recognition technology to unlock the device. It was the first mass-market smartphone to demand a \$1,000 starting price. Although the iPhone X didn’t fulfill analysts’ lofty sales expectations, it fared well enough for Apple to up the ante with the bigger model, whose price is expected to unveil Wednesday.

Apple also is expected to release an iPhone with minor updates to last year’s \$1,000 model and another version made of cheaper materials, including a 6.1-inch LCD screen. Even so, the cheaper iPhone is still expected to sell for \$650 to \$750. The cheaper phone also is expected to lose the home button. Price cuts for older models, with the home button, are also likely.

## THUNDER: Simulating a large audience is difficult

Continued from 1A

anthem played, but as the pair prepared to descend the ramp, Thunder got spooked and started rearing back.

Harris approached the situation calmly, and after allowing Thunder to calm down safely descended the ramp.

Thunder’s stage fright didn’t come from a lack of preparation on his rider’s part.

Harris said she trained with Thunder for multiple hours per day for 50 days, walking him through the ramp portion of the program and trying to simulate as many elements of the ceremony as possible.

But simulating an audience of thousands of people

is a much harder element to create, and sometimes animals are going to have an animal reaction, she said.

“You can feel it in the atmosphere, and horses can pick up on that,” Harris said.

Harris had a big saddle to fill when Bronson retired from flag bearing duties last year, but Happy Canyon President Corey Neistadt said they turned to Harris because her family’s commitment to the organization runs deep.

Harris’ relatives have been Happy Canyon princesses dating back to the 1950s, and both of Harris’ younger sisters were also named to the court. Given her background and her equine ability, Harris got the nod.

“When you make the call, (the Harrises) answer,” he said.

The volunteer role required a large time commitment on top of Harris’ day job working at the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute.

But Harris said she was motivated to do it to honor her grandfathers and uncle, who all served in either Korea or Vietnam.

While Bronson used to bear the flag for both PBR and the night show, Neistadt said the role will likely be split up among multiple people throughout the week.

And to avoid another scare from Thunder, Neistadt said Harris would carry the flag on foot ahead of Tuesday’s PBR.

But even without the aid

of a horse, Neistadt teased some new dramatics ahead of the last night of Happy Canyon bull riding.



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