

**Appendix – Section 8**  
**Beacon Article**

restored to most members. At the storm's height, 56,000 services were out in both Brunswick and Columbus counties, in part because of Duke Energy's power was

lapsed, to see how fortunate we are. Residents in Virginia reported severe hurricane impacts, and the damage totals in hard-hit portions of Georgia and Florida have not yet been tallied. CoreLogic, a research and consulting firm, said it estimates the economic cost of Hurricane Matthew in the United States between \$4 billion and \$6 billion, with two-thirds of that amount in property damage.

As of 5 p.m. Monday, at least 27 people in the U.S., including 11 in North Carolina, were reported dead as a result of the hurricane. In the Caribbean, where the hurricane struck first, hundreds more were killed; the unofficial death toll for Haiti alone is estimated at 1,000 people.

Back here in Brunswick County, the cleanup is already under way. We join local leaders in reminding everyone to remember to help neighbors, especially those who may need special assistance, as we recover with gratitude the impact from Hurricane Matthew was not worse.

will display disrespectful

postures during the playing of the National Anthem will have their team's games banned from being televised in American Legion Post 186. The American Legion's preamble to its Constitution includes,

for excellent

### storm response

To the editor:

We wanted to send an open letter of appreciation to the entire Sunset Beach community following the

### Vote 'no' on school bond

To the editor:

I received a copy of a handout that Brunswick County schools recently

our craft vendors, food vendors and nonprofits for their participation in the 10th annual Sunset at Sunset Festival. We hope your day was enjoyable and profitable.

This year's record-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters should be brief

and to the point, not exceeding 300 words.

In all cases, the managing editor reserves the right to edit letters for space,

See Letters, 7A

## Newsprint on my forehead

# Hurricane generates goodwill, exposes cretins

One of the most heartening things I've seen in the wake of Hurricane Matthew is the outpouring of assistance people are offering others in need. After the storm passed and the sun shone again Sunday, teams of residents gathered in the hardest-hit areas of the county to cut away fallen trees and lend a hand.

The worst I experienced in the storm was the loss of power, which happened to

came arrived, but by Friday they were calm as could be. All day Saturday, all they wanted to do was cuddle, same as they do anytime



JACKIE TOROK

Managing Editor

I'm home all day, but it was me who couldn't settle down.

Then there was the un-

expected safety check by one of my coworkers early Sunday morning. I say it was early that morning because I was sound asleep when my cats woke me up by scattering when they heard knocking on my door. I was told later the surprise visit was actually early Sunday afternoon.

No matter, because bleary-eyed, disheveled and barely coherent, I still answered the door. That, readers, is proof no good deed goes unpunished. No

one deserves to see me that unkempt.

My second mistake was opening my windows after the hurricane passed. While the air was fragrant with pine from all the tree debris, it was also chock-full of allergens to aggravate my latest sinus infection.

When my power was restored on Sunday afternoon, less than 24 hours later (thank you, utility workers!) and I could

See Good, 7A

ing students to copy  
and submit a EAFSA three

advantages to early EAFSA

ing related to the reduction  
of men active in the labor  
force. Additionally, some  
men may willingly choose

## Good

from page 6A

check in with friends and family via social media, I saw lots of them suffered much worse.

My former coworkers in and around Fayetteville and Florence, S.C., who still had power were offering food, showers and shelter to anyone they knew who needed it and could get to their homes. Others were trapped on their property by downed trees and buckled roads. I lost count of how many said they were charging their phones, tablets and laptops from their vehicles to communicate with the outside world.

I'm grateful I was merely inconvenienced by the hurricane and even more thankful my friends and family survived and will be able to recover. More than a dozen families in the Carolinas can't say the same thing, and the devastation Matthew wrought in Haiti is almost beyond comprehension.

That brings me to those who don't appreciate how good they have it. I'm talking about the folks fighting over cases of bottled water before the storm and the price gougers who tried to taking advantage of this natural disaster.

I'm talking about the caller who left a complaint on my office voicemail over the weekend.

She said she was calling from Holden Beach where she was trapped on her island property. She explained she was visiting from Charlotte, where she lived, and she was very put out that police would not let her leave her property because of the curfew. She had no power on the island but she said she knew the roads were clear and it was wrong she wasn't being allowed to leave. It's bad enough after all, she said, that as anonymous she can't vote in Holden Beach elections and has no say in how the town is governed. She wanted me to call her back right away.

She left this message at 11:28 p.m. Saturday.

Had I called her back, I would have laid into her for not obeying the

town's mandatory evacuation order for nonresidents. I would have told her it's selfish, thoughtless, entitled fools like her who put our emergency services personnel in danger when they ignore that order — which, by the way, is issued not to deliberately spoil her vacation fun, as she seemed to think, but to protect her. Police should not have had to be out in the elements to save people like her from herself. As for her "right" to vote in Holden Beach elections, it doesn't exist for her or any other nonresident.

I have no way of knowing whether this woman was "into her cups," as my late friend Dwight Dana used to say, when she left her message or is just plain ignorant, but I do know it was in her best interest — and mine — that I not return her phone call.

Fortunately, as in most situations, the everyday heroes vastly outnumber the occasional jerks, and so it has been in the aftermath of this hurricane.

*Jackie Torok is managing editor of the Beacon. Reach her at 754-6890 or email editor@brunswickbeacon.com.*

## Letters

from page 6A

grammar, style, clarity and content. The managing editor also reserves the right to reject any letter — in whole or in part — including those determined potentially libelous.

Only one letter per writer will be considered for publication per month.

Mass-produced or form letters will not be published. Unsigned or anonymous letters will be rejected.

All letters should be received by noon Monday

for consideration in each week's edition.  
The Brunswick Beacon, P.O. Box 2558, Shallotte, NC 28459 or send them via email to editor@brunswickbeacon.com. The body of the letter can be contained in an email or in an attached Word document; no .jpgs, PDFs or other formats are accepted.

Anyone with questions, comments or concerns about this policy, effective July 16, 2015, is encouraged to contact managing editor Jackie Torok at 754-6890 or editor@brunswickbeacon.com.