

## Aftermath of Hurricane Dorian



PROVIDED/TOMP/JEN JORDAN, PUBLIC SERVICES COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING COORDINATOR

Lenton Sharpe, Mount Pleasant Public Services Infrastructure Division Crew Leader, assists residents with debris from Hurricane Dorian.



CECILIA BROWN/STAFF

A large tree fell over in the Ocean Grove Cemetery on McCants Drive in Mount Pleasant.

BY CECILIA BROWN  
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Hurricane Dorian impacted the East Cooper area with Category 2 wind speeds and rainfall on Thursday, Sept. 5. Fortunately, the area did not experience heavy flooding during high tide as the storm moved north.

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster ordered a mandatory evacuation for coastal counties at noon on Monday, Sept. 2. The hurricane approached the Charleston coast on Thursday with winds reaching 80-90 mph bringing down many trees and power lines, causing some structural damage in the area that lead to power outages.

The evacuation order was lifted for Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester, Horry and Georgetown counties on Friday, Sept. 6 once the storm had passed to allow residents to return home safely. Drivers were asked to be cautious of fallen trees, downed power lines and standing water.

The Town of Mount Pleasant's Emergency Manager Amanda Knight said that they are still assessing the wind damage from Hurricane Dorian, but can report 88 trees fell on roads in the town during the storm. Mount Pleasant and surrounding municipalities have begun collecting debris and resumed normal collection routes.

"We are working with Charleston County to obtain additional debris removal resources to expand our debris collection efforts. The cleanup from the storm will not occur overnight, but we will get it done as soon as possible. We thank you in advance for your patience," Knight said.

Mount Pleasant Public Services and Mount Pleasant Waterworks offered storm recovery and hurricane debris collection tips to residents on Friday, which are posted on the Moultrie News website. Residents were urged to limit water usage until the wastewater system operations returned to normal, separate debris into



PROVIDED/CHRIS STAUBES

A tree approximately 60-70 feet tall was uprooted in Dunes West by the wind on Sept. 5 around 11:30 a.m. View the video of the tree falling at moultrienews.com/videos.

different piles, cut limbs into 4-foot sections and keep debris piles away from utilities.

On Saturday, Sept. 7 Dominion Energy announced their crews were moving swiftly to restore power following Hurricane Dorian. The announcement said power had been restored to more than 410,000 customers in SC, NC

and VA, and that their crews were working around the clock on behalf of remaining 35,700 customers at that time. On Monday, Sept. 9 Dominion Energy announced a donation of \$250,000 to Hurricane Dorian recovery in the SC, NC and VA regions that were impacted by the storm.

Members of the commu-



PROVIDED/MELVYN SMITH

A tree uprooted from Hurricane Dorian in Hamlet Square in Mount Pleasant.

nity are encouraged to stay prepared throughout the remainder of hurricane season, which lasts through the end of November.

"We are still at the height of the hurricane season and must continue to remain alert and prepared for the impact of storms. September is National Preparedness Month and I invite the community

to visit our website and social media channels where we promote family and community disaster and emergency planning," Knight added.

View the Hurricane Dorian photo gallery online at moultrienews.com/photos. There is also a video of a tree falling down during the storm in Dunes West at moultrienews.com/videos.

## Revered author Dorothea Benton Frank passes away

BY ZACH GIROUX  
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Another chapter has come to an end in the Lowcountry's literary community. Nationally renowned Sullivan's Island novelist Dorothea "Dottie" Benton Frank, 67 years old, died last week in Manhattan after a short-lived battle with myelodysplastic syndrome, according to the Post and Courier.

The revered New York Times bestselling author's untimely death came as a shock to many of her friends, literary peers and avid readers. Although she's no longer here in the physical, Frank's words will live on inside the hardcovers and paperbacks stocked on the shelves of home studies, local libraries and name brand bookstores.

Born and raised on the barrier island, most of Frank's storytelling and imagery evoked was inspired by her coastal surroundings. The 1969 graduate of General William Moultrie High School, after completing fashion school in Atlanta, went on to write 20 books based on her upbringing in the Lowcountry's landscape.

Although she was an island



PROVIDED/DEBBIE ZAMMIT

Local author Dorothea Benton Frank passed away Sept. 2.

girl at heart, which was clearly portrayed throughout her life's work, Frank frequently spent time back and forth between Sullivan's Island and the New York City area. Frank had another home in Montclair, N.J. where she raised her children during the early stages of her career.

As for her success on the page, Frank's first novel in 2000 was fittingly titled "Sullivan's Island," which debuted on the New York Times list at No. 9 nationally. This beach read would go on to be shared with more than 1 million printed copies in 10 different languages.

Other subsequent bodies of work like "Isle of Palms," "Shem Creek" or "Folly Beach," shared similar sand-filled memories of places she went and people she met. For Frank, her novels' themes were always about celebrating her heritage.

Frank's most popular piece to date is her latest and last novel she'll ever write, "Queen Bee." The book was published in May and soared to No. 2 on the New York Times bestseller list.

Over the years, Frank forged many friendships with book worms, island folk and even contemporary authors, like

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## Mount Pleasant house fire claims two lives

STAFF REPORT

According to Mount Pleasant Fire Department's Twitter account, at 4:13 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 5, crews were dispatched to a residence on Horseshoe Bend in the Sweetgrass community for a structure fire.

Reports of two civilians trapped inside lead to an im-

mediate rescue operation, while the fire was extinguished. The two civilians were taken to the hospital. Cause under investigation.

According to the Post and Courier's Sept. 6 update, Donnie and Linda Caston have both been pronounced dead. The husband and wife

were ages 80 and 74, both succumbed to smoke inhalation, according to the Charleston County coroner's office.

Mount Pleasant Fire Department did not provide any additional information to the Moultrie News following the incident by the time of this article's publication.

## Moultrie News' 55th anniversary campaign underway to support local libraries

BY CECILIA BROWN  
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The Moultrie News has been providing quality local news and sports coverage to our readers since 1964. This year, as he newspaper celebrates its 55th anniversary, they have partnered with another local organization in the community devoted to literacy and a provider of information.

The Moultrie News' campaign to benefit Charleston County Public Library's (CCPL) three East Cooper branches has been underway for several months now. The newspaper is most appreciative of all of the contributions received so far, and they look forward to more over the next few months.

Using the Moultrie News Voluntary Pay platform, for every \$55 contributed to the paper through the end of 2019, the paper will donate \$5 to

the Mount Pleasant Regional branch, which is one of the busiest branches in the county and the state; the Wandomount Pleasant Branch, which opened in June; and the Village Branch, one of CCPL's smallest branches located in the Old Village of Mount Pleasant.

"Both libraries and newspapers share a common goal of informing the public and promoting intellectual freedom. We're excited to grow this partnership with the Moultrie News and help celebrate 55 years of them keeping the East Cooper community informed,"

said CCPL's Communications Manager, Doug Reynolds.

CCPL will determine how to best use the funds once the campaign is complete. Reynolds shared they will likely go toward things like programs and other services at the East Cooper branches.

"We've received a fantastic response from the community. They have nothing but good things to say about both the Moultrie News and see the campaign as beneficial to the entire community," Reynolds

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