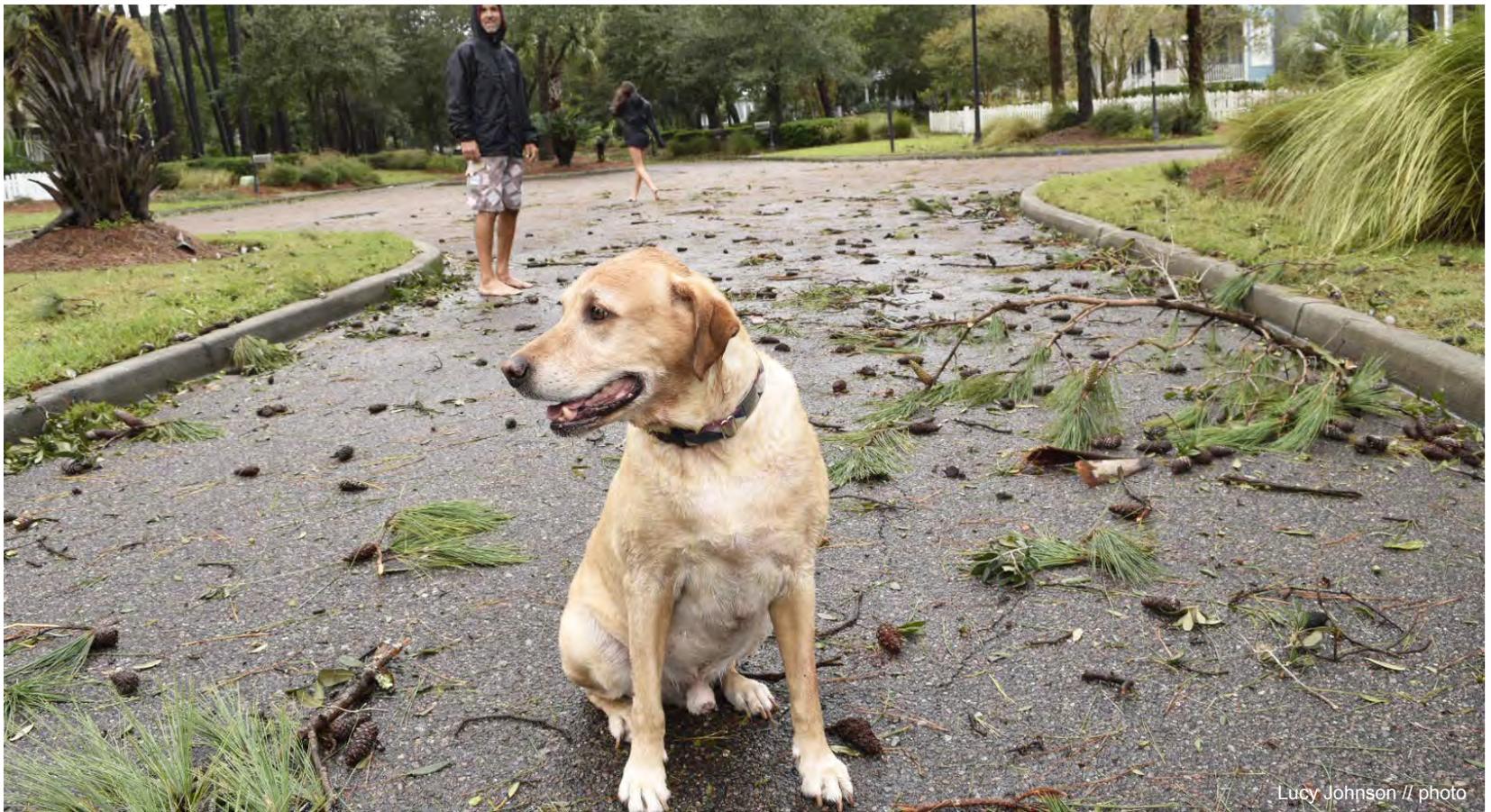


(Right) Freshman **Caroline Johnson's** yellow lab, Benny, explores the streets of their neighborhood on Oct. 8, after Hurricane Matthew hit Mount Pleasant.



Lucy Johnson // photo

THE AFTER MATTHEW

(Right) St. Matthew's German Evangelical Lutheran Church before the hurricane on Oct. 7. (Below) The entrance of the A and B parking lots flooded after the storm on Oct. 8.

Jack Rogers // photo



Autumn in Charleston means a few things: football, unbearable heat and hurricanes. This year has been no different.

From Oct. 5-10, schools, businesses and government offices in the Lowcountry boarded up and headed for higher ground. A state of emergency was declared in the state of South Carolina as Hurricane Matthew spiraled up the southeastern coast.

Although the government urged people to evacuate, many chose to stay.

"My family decided to stay because we were being more rational about [the hurricane]. We didn't think we could be hurt by it, and that it would be much more calm by the time it hit," junior Ross Jaegar said. "We didn't think it would affect our safety, so we just stayed and waited it out...so staying was a great choice, in our opinion."

"I was pretty scared at first; I saw all the people evacuating and it scared me because we left to get gas and the gas stations were just destroyed," he added.

However, not evacuating meant boarding up windows, doors and staying inside.

"We got candles and board games, just in case the power went out; but we didn't even end up using them," Jaegar said. "We just continued life as we normally would, inside the house."

Even though the aftermath of the hurricane was mild in most neighborhoods, that doesn't mean everything was normal.

"There was a crawfish on my porch and my mom was liked, 'Is that a mini-lobster?' and I said 'I don't think mini-lobsters exist,'" Jaegar laughed. "We didn't really know what it was, and she was really scared by it...But it was just really odd, we don't ever get things like that, and not on our porch. It was just really strange, but it was definitely not a mini-lobster."

--Paige Mistler and Francesca Mathewes

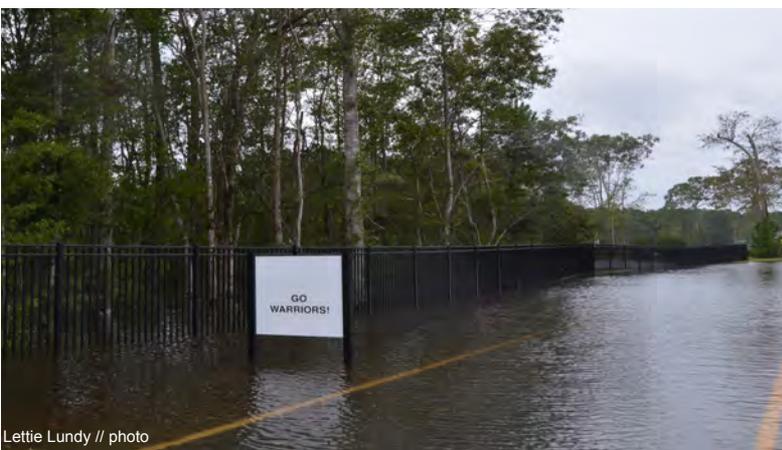


Alessia Boland // photo

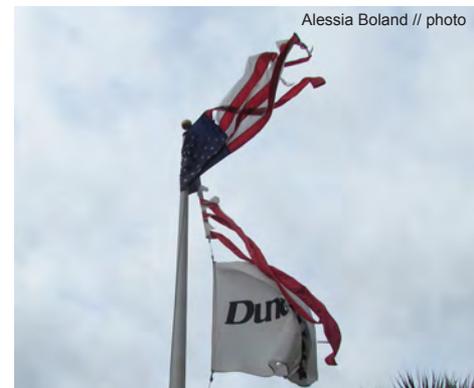
(Top left) A fallen tree that was uprooted after the hurricane. (Middle left) Cars lined up to get gas at Sewee Outpost on Oct. 4. West gate after the hurricane.



Kat Kollegger // photo



Lettie Lundy // photo



Alessia Boland // photo

The ripped American flag outside the Dunes West neighborhood.