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To:
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Subject: Clips – Sunday, July 10, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Times and Democrat: All counties Work Ready; Haley says S.C. is first state to meet goals
http://thetandd.com/business/all-counties-work-ready-haley-says-s-c-is-first/article_86c0a0bc-8f52-5eeb-bbb9-a4ed99efe717.html

South Carolina is the first state in the nation to become fully certified as work ready, according to Gov. Nikki Haley. Haley announced that the final two counties, Jasper and Richland, have received certification through the South Carolina Work Ready Communities initiative. All 46 counties have met the specified workforce and education goals. Being fully certified will assist all regions of South Carolina in their efforts to attract and retain international business development due to its commitment to economic growth and development of a robust workforce pipeline, according to Haley. “We couldn’t be more excited to announce that South Carolina is the first state in the nation to have every county become certified work ready. Team South Carolina’s is paying off – we have seen our state become one of the most competitive environments for business development in the world, and we’re just getting started,” Haley said.

Post and Courier: A year later, flag removal anchors Haley legacy, future
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160709/160709507/a-year-later-flag-removal-anchors-haley-legacy-future>

Gavin Jackson

Gov. Nikki Haley may go down in history as the leader who stamped out the Confederate flag in South Carolina, but in the last year she’s also sought to reinforce her march back to the right. Signing an abortion-restrictive bill — twice — continuing her anti-union rhetoric, defending voter ID and attempting to cut spending that many veteran Statehouse lawmakers wanted all played a part in keeping her Republican credentials current. College of Charleston political science professor Gibbs Knotts said Haley’s ability to remove the flag served one national platform as she moved to reverse 50 years of Confederate display. But going forward, Haley’s resume is still bound by GOP roots for the next two years, he said, as she looks for other possibilities beyond that. “Being able to successfully challenge the ‘big symbol’ of the South — the Confederate flag — and to be part of that transition to the new South in a real way, she deserves a lot of credit,” Knotts said.

Post and Courier: Unclear if furling of Confederate battle flag from Statehouse grounds boosted state’s economy
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160709/160719965/unclear-if-furling-of-confederate-battle-flag-from-statehouse-grounds-boosted-states-economy>

Maya T. Prabhu

A year after the business community urged Gov. Nikki Haley to remove the Confederate battle flag from Statehouse grounds, there is no way to know if the change resulted in economic growth for the state, recruiting officials said. The S.C. Department of Commerce does not keep a list or have any evidence of businesses opening in South Carolina — or choosing not to — as a result of the flag

coming down, agency spokeswoman Adrienne Fairwell said. Anita Zucker, chairwoman of the Charleston Regional Development Alliance, also said she was unaware of any new business opening in the Lowcountry due to the flag's removal. "Obviously, people that I speak to are glad that it was removed," she said. "But I've never had anyone specifically say removing this makes the state more welcoming (to businesses)." Meanwhile, at some tourist shops and flag stores around the state, images of the flag are becoming scarcer. At Treasure Island Beachwear on the road to Folly Beach, visitors can't find license plates with the image of a bald eagle superimposed over a Confederate flag anymore. Neither is the flag on boogie boards, beach towels or shot glasses.

The State: Confederate flag's removal could drive tourism, sports to SC

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article88739677.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Since the Confederate flag's removal from the State House grounds a year ago, boycotts of the state have been lifted, paving the way for a boost in tourism and the chance at high-profile sporting events. The NAACP and NCAA last summer lifted their boycotts of South Carolina, put in place after the 2000 compromise that removed the flag from the State House dome to a nearby flagpole. The state NAACP convention has returned to South Carolina after spending recent years in North Carolina and Georgia, said Dwight James, the S.C. NAACP's executive director. Last year the convention was held in Spartanburg. This September it's slated for Columbia. "The word is slowly getting out that the flag has been removed from the State House grounds," James said. The changes also opened the door for Columbia to work on bringing an NCAA men's basketball tournament to the state's capital. A weekend-long tournament could bring \$10 to \$15 million to Columbia and the Midlands, according to Ron Morris, a former columnist for The State newspaper who has led the city's efforts.

The State: Why the Confederate flag is still in a box

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article88686207.html>

Cassie Cope

The last Confederate battle flag to fly at the S.C. State House sits today in storage at Columbia's S.C. Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum. That is not the honorable display that flag advocates were promised last summer as lawmakers heatedly debated furling the flag in the wake of the slaying of nine African-American parishioners at a Charleston church. Ultimately, legislators voted to remove the flag from the State House grounds and display it at the Relic Room, a little attended museum located off Columbia's Gervais Street. The details and cost of that display, they said, would be worked out when they returned to Columbia in January. But lawmakers left Columbia this year without ever acting on the flag, largely forgotten.

NOTE: However, Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed that budget proposal, saying it was important to legislators, who she worked with to bring down the flag, "to develop a proper, respectful place for" the banner at the current Relic Room location. "Never in any of those conversations ... did they talk about moving it to Charleston," Haley said last month. The proposal arose because a couple of legislators or former legislators want the museum moved to Charleston, she said. "We talked about Columbia – never did we talk about Charleston – and I have to stay true to my word on that."

NOTE: Earlier this year, a proposal emerged to spend \$3.6 million to enlarge and renovate parts of the Relic Room to include a flag display, but legislators did not consider that plan. Instead, lawmakers approved studying moving the Relic Room to Charleston. But Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed that plan, saying moving the museum never was discussed as part of the deal to furl the flag.

The State: What happened to the pole that flew the flag?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article88662482.html>

Roddie Burris

Here's a look some of the things that have happend around South Carolina since the Confederate flag was removed from The State House grounds a year ago....The flag pole remains in storage. On July 10, 2015, the flagpole that held the Confederate flag in front of the State House was transported to the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum, according to Lindsey O. Kremlick, policy and public affairs director in the South Carolina Department of Administration. The flagpole is being stored in space owned by the South Carolina State Museum, according to officials with the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Museum. The flagpole's future fate is undetermined at this point, those officials say.

The State: Grandmother council, revered flagpole suggested to SC's Haley for Confederate flag

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article88736322.html>

Cassie Cope and Avery G. Wilks

Thousands of people shared their opinions with S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley about the Confederate flag and her push to remove it from the State House grounds last summer. The deluge of more than 10,000 pages of emails included a range of opinions about the flag's public display. But some commentators offered advice for dealing with the divisive banner beyond taking it down or letting it fly. Here's a sampling of what The Buzz found, sifting through the documents released Wednesday in response to a public records request. The governor's staff omitted last names of the senders....

Post and Courier : God and faith references prominent in Confederate flag emails to Haley

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160710/160719962/god-and-faith-references-prominent-in-confederate-flag-emails-to-haley>

Schuyler Kropf

Many of the emails sent to Gov. Nikki Haley about removing the Confederate battle flag contain references to God, faith and religious matters, including some that curse or outright condemn her for acting to bring the banner down. "Pray to God for forgiveness as you will be called to pay for your sins and the way that you have treated the residents of this state one day," wrote Shoun, a pro-flag sender from Arlington, Va. "You can walk on us as Governor of SC but you can't walk on God. You will pay for your evil deeds when the time comes," he added. "My God in heaven knows I am ashamed for you," added Tammy from Elgin. Some referenced scripture to make their case. "well sister the good folks from the church aren't in heaven as you state holy bible ps 49:14; 89:48 and ecc 9:5 may God have mercy," wrote someone identified as "brother anthony." The comments — many of which were delivered in errant grammar — were among the batch of 10,000 letters and emails Haley's office released to the media last week through a state Freedom of Information Act request. The time period for the messages covers the days immediately after the June 17, 2015, shooting at Emanuel AME Church that left nine dead and the subsequent political debate to remove the rebel flag from the Statehouse that July. In most instances, the last names of the senders and their identifying email addresses were redacted.

The State : SLED investigated Confederate flag emails sent to Gov. Haley

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article88464102.html>

Avery G. Wilks

State law enforcement officials investigated as possible threats six emails sent to S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley last year during the tumultuous weeks between the Charleston massacre and the removal of the Confederate flag from S.C. State House grounds. The State Law Enforcement Division has made no arrests related to the emails, spokesman Thom Berry said Friday. Berry said it would be inappropriate for SLED to release details about the emails, as the investigations remain open "should any new information be developed." The Republican governor's office this week released more than 10,000 pages of emails and letters sent to her concerning the Confederate flag's eventual removal from the State House campus. The emails spanned from June 18, the day after nine black parishioners were shot and killed in a Charleston church, to July 13, three days after the Confederate flag was furled.

Emmanuel 9 News:

Post and Courier : Emanuel AME victims' loved ones criticize Rev. Goff's bishop run

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160709/160709482/emanuel-ame-victims-loved-ones-criticize-rev-goffs-bishop-run>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

A united front of those who lost loved ones in the Emanuel AME Church shooting has come forward to denounce their former interim pastor for his treatment of them — and to protest his bid to become bishop. When the AME Church's general conference votes Monday for new bishops, the Rev. Norvel Goff will stand among 30 candidates one year after the racially motivated killings thrust him onto an international stage. Voting for six seats begins Monday in Philadelphia during the denomination's meeting, held every four years. Heading into that vote, the victims' families said they want people to know that while the nation focused on their words of forgiveness, their pastor ignored their spiritual wounds. Immediate family members of six victims told The Post and Courier Friday that once the high-profile funerals ended, Goff never called or visited them to pray or provide religious counseling even as he held memorials and other public events for the "Emanuel Nine." Several said they contacted Goff repeatedly, but he didn't respond. Nor did he send one of the three dozen clergy he supervised. Other victims' relatives agreed but didn't want to say so publicly.

LGBT Laws:

Greenville News: SC joins nine states in transgender bathroom suit

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/07/08/sc-joins-nine-states-transgender-bathroom-suit/86867916/>

Tim Smith

South Carolina joined nine other states Friday in a lawsuit over federal rules allowing transgender students to choose the bathrooms that correspond with their gender identity. The states allege that federal officials bypassed the law to hand down regulations earlier this year that remove the ability of local schools to handle the issue. They are asking a federal judge to issue an injunction against enforcement of the new rules and guidance and are seeking a declaration that the rules are unlawful.

Post and Courier: South Carolina joins states suing over restrooms transgender students can use

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160708/160709529/south-carolina-joins-states-suing-over-restrooms-transgender-students-can-use>

Brenda Rindge

South Carolina and nine other states are suing the federal government over rules requiring public schools to allow transgender students to use restrooms and locker rooms conforming to their gender identity. The lawsuit was filed Friday in federal court in Nebraska. The other states involved are

Arkansas, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wyoming. The suit is in response to a May 13 directive issued by the Obama administration, signed by the Departments of Justice and Education, that every public school district in the country should let transgender students use facilities consistent with their gender identity. The order includes an implied threat that schools that do not abide by the administration's interpretation of the law could face lawsuits or risking losing federal aid.

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: S.C. chief justice slams Statehouse for underfunding the judiciary

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160709/160709537/sc-chief-justice-slams-statehouse-for-underfunding-the-judiciary>

S.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Costa Pleicones let out his frustration in an email where he chided the poor treatment of the state's judicial branch at the hands of Statehouse budget writers. In a note to lawyer-legislators and those preparing to take office, Pleicones blasted what he called the General Assembly's "dismissive treatment" of the court system from the Legislature's budget committees. "Let me be clear that I am not referring to the failure of the legislature to approve a significant pay increase for the judiciary," his said. "The overarching problem is the continued underfunding of our operational budget. As a result, our ability to deliver the service rightly expected by our citizens has been imperiled." While Pleicones did not address specific dollar amounts in his letter, he said that both the House Ways and Means and the Senate Finance committees took part in "a pre-ordained charade" in low-balling the judiciary's most recent budget request. "While we should be able to survive, if barely, for the next fiscal year, I am not optimistic about our prospects going forward should this practice continue," he added.

Post and Courier: South Carolina lawmakers split in response to tragedies; activists rally in Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160708/160709502/south-carolina-lawmakers-split-in-response-to-tragedies-activists-rally-in-charleston>

Emma Dumain and Thad Moore

With the Mother Emanuel AME Church massacre and the shooting of Walter Scott, South Carolinians have, for over a year, been grappling with the legacy of race relations, the question of who can buy a gun and the task of restoring trust between the black community and law enforcement. These themes are now being debated on Capitol Hill, with lawmakers reeling after: the June 12 mass shooting at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Fla., Tuesday and Wednesday's killing of black men by police officers in Baton Rouge, La., and St. Paul, Minn., and Thursday's slaying of five members of law enforcement in Dallas. These incidents call out for some sort of federal response, but solutions so far remain elusive. Even members of the South Carolina congressional delegation bound together by the tragedies that have challenged their home state are splintering in their pursuit of government remedies, or the lack of.

Greenville News : SC politicians urge respect for law enforcement, black community in wake of shootings

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/07/08/sc-politicians-urge-respect-law-enforcement-black-community-wake-shootings/86864684/>

Amanda Coyne

After a week when two black men were killed by police and five Dallas police officers were killed by a sniper, South Carolina politicians are urging their constituents to respect both law enforcement and

the black community. In a post on the blogging platform Medium, Sen. Tim Scott drew a parallel between the shooting deaths of Castile and Sterling with that of Walter Scott, who was fatally shot in the back by a North Charleston police officer while running away in April 2015. "These two deaths are the latest in a troubling trend of disturbing videos involving law enforcement and black men," Scott wrote. "We experienced this in my hometown of North Charleston last year, and I could not be more proud of the way our community came together. Protests were peaceful, voices were heard and the healing continues."

The State: State senator suggests shutting down 'the media' for a month

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article88509552.html>

Avery G. Wilks and Jamie Self

In the midst of a national uproar on race relations and police-community interactions, state Sen. Katrina Shealy, R-Lexington, took to social media on Friday to point her finger at "the media." "I bet we would see a change" if "we could shut down all media for one month except for weather reports," the Lexington Republican wrote in a Facebook post titled "America's Biggest Problem." Shealy said "race" and law enforcement are not the country's biggest challenges, but that it "could very possibly (most likely) be the Media!!!" She added: "The media sensationalizes everything that happens stirring the pot, fueling an already blazing fire." The post came at the end of a week marked by fatal police officer-involved shootings in Louisiana and Minnesota, and a gunman's attack Thursday night in Dallas that left five officers dead and seven more wounded.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Latest flag flareup highlights problems with Heritage Act

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scoppe/article88523887.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

THE SECESSIONISTS are right: Gov. Nikki Haley broke the law when she ordered the Coastal Carolina flag flown from the State House dome to celebrate the school's national baseball championship. And the governor, as usual, brushed aside the criticism, ignored the legalities and said, essentially, why should I obey a law that doesn't make sense? That pattern of breaking the law and acting as though it simply doesn't matter would make Hillary Clinton blush. But this is not a column about Gov. Haley, who clearly acted with the best of intentions. This is a column about the Heritage Act, which the Legislature amended on July 9, 2015, in order to remove the Confederate flag from the State House grounds — a mandate carried out on a sunny morning one year ago Sunday, in a solemn seven-minute ceremony attended by 10,000 and punctuated by understandable but unseemly cheers and chants. That was good for our state, but it produced unrealistic expectations, and unforeseen consequences.

Post and Courier: And the (Confederate) flag still was not there ...

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160710/160719992/and-the-confederate-flag-still-was-not-there>

Brian Hicks

You can bet one of the rallying cries at today's Statehouse Confederate flag fest will be "Arrest Nikki Haley." That sorry, liberal excuse for a governor had the audacity to hoist the Coastal Carolina flag on the Statehouse dome when the school improbably won the College World Series. And that violates state law — the Secessionist Party helpfully pointed out chapter and verse of the state code. Who knew they were legal scholars? They must study law when they're flying the flag at The Battery on weekends. But it's probably just that they're still mad the Legislature, which — at Gov. Haley's

insistence — removed the Confederate flag from Statehouse grounds last year. You remember, that was right after a Confederate-flag waving nut gunned down nine black churchgoers in the name of white supremacy. But that was totally a coincidence. That flag doesn't represent anything racial to anyone — just read the governor's emails. Like the one that said she would be remembered as a "turncoat Republican." You'd think someone who reveres Confederate history so much would know the Rebels weren't Republicans. But that's beside the point. The point is: Why would Gov. Haley fly the flag of Coastal Carolina, but not the Confederates? Uh, because Coastal Carolina actually won.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier : Four more South Carolina residents contracted Zika; 11 total for state

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160709/160709480/four-more-south-carolina-residents-contracted-zika-11-total-for-state>

Derrek Asberry

Four more South Carolina residents have been diagnosed with the Zika virus bringing the state total to 11 confirmed cases. The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control reported on Friday that 10 of the cases involved residents who were infected while traveling abroad in impacted areas. "One case involved a South Carolina resident who had sexual contact with someone who acquired the Zika infection while traveling abroad," DHEC wrote on its website. The agency says it is unable to provide additional information concerning the patients' physical condition, hospitalization, age, sex, and residence.

The State: Stories from the past on display at SC Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum

<http://www.thestate.com/living/article88744767.html>

Janet Jones Kendall

There are few physical items in South Carolina's history that elicit more passionate responses than the flags that have represented it. But it's not just flags emblazoned with the controversial St. Andrews Cross that draw such emotion. There are other flags – many, many others. Some centuries-old pieces of material – remnants, in some cases – whose threads flew in the skies over the battlefields where many South Carolina men, and later women, fought and died. These historic state treasures are housed now in the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum which is located inside the State Museum on Gervais Street. There, visitors can stand just inches from flags such as the silk remnants of the 2nd S.C. Volunteer Infantry (later designated as the 34th Infantry Regiment) United States Colored Troops – the only known surviving colors of any of the seven South Carolina Civil War African-American regiments. Under the same roof is a 2009 flag from Operation Iraqi Freedom that displays the state's palmetto tree and crescent – emblems South Carolina Marines had cut and stitched from camouflage fabric and sewn into a flag to fly over their station in Anbar Province.

Local News:

Associated Press: Gun billboard removed from South Carolina airport concourse

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=aWvxfwTL

SC State Wire

A billboard-sized advertisement for a gun manufacturer that said "yeah, we carry" has been removed from the concourse of a South Carolina airport. The State newspaper reports Saturday (<http://bit.ly/29tGnK6>) that the Columbia Metropolitan Airport's governing commission decided to take it down after receiving complaints. Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin said the ad featuring eight different guns

made by firearms manufacturer FN America is "the wrong ad in the wrong place at the wrong time." A different billboard and a video at the escalators promoting FN America will remain. Benjamin called FN a "good company," noting the Columbia manufacturer has supplied firearms to Columbia police.

Associated Press: Citizen recordings of police interaction growing amid push

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=KrOPZauk

Russell Contreeras and Deepti Hajela

When police officers fatally shot Alton Sterling in Louisiana and Philando Castile in Minnesota, a powerful tool conveyed the brutal reality of their deaths to millions of people and helped fuel public outrage: cellphone video captured at the scene. As the nation debates law enforcement's actions in these two high-profile shootings of black men, a growing number of groups are training citizens to record and monitor police encounters for potential excessive force. They offer classes on rights, tips on recording better footage and ideas on where to share on social media for maximum exposure

NOTE: Fatal police interactions caught on video in St. Louis, Missouri; North Charleston, South Carolina; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Staten Island, New York, sparked similar angry reactions. In each case, a bystander or community advocate caught the encounter on video and posted it online before authorities had a chance to confiscate it.

Greenville News: Five arrested, Taser used during downtown protest

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/07/10/five-arrested-taser-used-during-downtown-protest/86916554/>

Elizabeth LaFleur

Five people were arrested and a Taser was used on one person late Saturday night after a second night of marching and demonstrating downtown culminated into voiced plans to block I-385. The Greenville Police Department also said in statement that it will begin enforcing the city's rules on picketing for future demonstrations. The demonstration Saturday was initially peaceful but deteriorated as demonstrators refused to remain on sidewalks. The situation further escalated when roads were blocked and demonstrators said they wanted to shut down Interstate 385. When police stopped the group at I-385 and Academy Street, demonstrators tried to push through a line of police. During this engagement, five people were arrested. One demonstrator was fighting and choking a Greenville police officer, according to a statement from police. A Taser was used on this person resulting in injuries typically associated with the use of a Taser, according to police.

Greenville News: Arrests made after protesters threaten to shut down 385

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2016/07/09/peace-rally-held-second-night-falls-park/86902740/>

Anna Lee

Protesters scuffled with police late Saturday in what began as a peaceful Black Lives Matter rally in downtown Greenville. Several people were arrested by the Bon Secours Wellness Center after protesters announced that they were going to shut down Interstate 385, said Greenville police spokesman Gilberto Franco. "We made the decision to intervene," Franco said. Among those arrested was Derrick Quarles, who led the march and is the founder of Upstate Black Lives Matter. Quarles was charged with disorderly conduct, jail records show. On Church Street, officers armed with rifles stood by their cruisers as a barricade. Blue lights lit up the night, and two men could be seen in handcuffs near one patrol car. The area around Academy and East North streets was also blocked off, and drivers were being told to turn around. The scene was in stark contrast to the rally earlier in the night as protesters marched through downtown Greenville to deliver a message.

Greenville News: Greenville PD chief sends message in wake of shootings

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2016/07/08/greenville-pd-chief-sends-message-wake-shootings/86877052/>

Anna Lee

The city of Greenville's Police Chief Ken Miller responded to the recent shootings that have claimed the lives of both civilians and police officers this week. In a statement released Friday night, Miller said: "The hearts of the men and women of the Greenville Police Department are heavy with grief for the victims and their families in Baton Rouge, Falcon Heights and Dallas. As difficult as it is to understand why each of these incidents — and others — have occurred, the pain of this loss reverberates within our family and community much as it does throughout America. "I understand that people across our great country are looking for reassurance and answers into acts of violence by police and against police. Regrettably, there are no simple answers and no simple solutions. But here in Greenville, the men and women of the police department understand the expectations of treating all people with dignity and respect, and protecting the Constitutional rights of all. And we understand that there are important consequences for behaving differently.

Post and Courier: Focus of North Charleston community forum on race expanded to include law enforcement

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160710/160719923/focus-of-north-charleston-community-forum-on-race-expanded-to-include-law-enforcement>

A community forum previously called "How To Get Black Men Off the Endangered Species List" has been renamed "Part of the Solution," and is set for 6 p.m. Sunday at Charity Missionary Baptist Church in North Charleston. "The recent police killings of Mr. Alton Sterling and Philando Castile have caused deep pain and anger in our community," the church's pastor, the Rev. Nelson Rivers III, said in the original event announcement. "Anger is not enough. We must take action to end the killings of black men by law enforcement in America. Black men seem to be an endangered species in our country. As a community we must stand together to say, "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!" In the wake of the shootings of police officers in Dallas, however, the focus of the event was shifted to include violence against law enforcement and the name changed to a partial quote from Charleston County Sheriff Al Cannon.

Island Packet: Sunday evening vigil planned to honor Louisiana, Minnesota and Dallas dead

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/article88507662.html>

Kelly Davis

A Beaufort County candlelight prayer vigil in honor of the memories of those killed in Baton Rouge, Minneapolis and Dallas will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday on Hilton Head Island. Organizers at First Presbyterian Church and the American Legion Arthur Wiley Post 49 plan to conduct the vigil at Veterans Memorial Park at Shelter Cove, said Blaine Lotz. "Let's come together as a community to lament the violence and the heartache and promote racial reconciliation," Lotz said. The event will be led by community leaders and clergy from several faiths and denominations. They will speak and offer prayers. Lotz said attendees are encouraged to bring a lawn chair for seating.

Morning News: After police shootings, Pee Dee people suggest prayer

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_b6694540-462c-11e6-b48e-f7bda4d86e2d.html

Deborah Swearingen

Following shootings involving police in Louisiana, Minnesota and Texas, some in the Pee Dee say the solution to the country's divide is fairly simple: prayer. At least it's a starting place, they say. "We need prayer all the time. We've got to continue marching, praying," said Barbara Carraway of

Hartsville. "It's about all people." Carraway and dozens of others met Saturday for a "Put Prayer Back in Schools" rally in Hartsville's Pride Park. Though the rally focused on putting prayer back in schools, attendees agreed that prayer could also be beneficial for the healing of the nation. "More prayer, more power," said Jimmie Peterson of Maryland. He grew up in Oates and attended the rally while visiting his hometown for the week. Carraway suggested that patience also is key to enacting change.

Sun News: Peace and rainbows mark protest in the park

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article88740007.html>

Christian Boschult

As the sun set and Saturday's Black Lives Matter rally in Plyler Park came to an end, the crowd of white, black, Christian and Muslim people lingered and talked with each other well after the closing prayer. Storm clouds that had formed to the southeast were starting to break apart and a rainbow appeared in the distance. Police with drug dogs had canvassed the area before the event, and officers were stationed on the roofs of surrounding buildings. But the gathering remained calm and peaceful, despite threats of violence on social media. "People were trying to portray this event as a negative but it ended up being positive," said organizer Chris Robinson. "You see smiles, you see black guys talking to white people, you see people communicating with each other. And this is what I wanted, to leave here in peace. Nobody's throwing anything, nobody's cursing, there were no gunshots, and that's exactly what I wanted."

WIS: Midlands residents rally to stop the violence

<http://www.wistv.com/story/32408830/midlands-residents-rally-to-stop-the-violence>

Allie Spillyards

As thousands rally across the country in the wake of shootings in Minnesota, Louisiana and now Dallas, a small group here in the Midlands joined forces with the Force of Life International to spread awareness and love. After a week of tragedy, conflict, and polarization, they gathered seeking peace. This sign of solidarity is part of a four part peaceful protest calling for one thing, to stop all violence. "There are so many things going on throughout the world and some of us have to find our way to stand up and stand out," said Tacita Sumter. "You know, I think one of the biggest things, the biggest issues is that we focus on action but don't realize it's a heart issue at the end of the day," explained LaRon Hearst. Their number was small, their volume at times quiet, but they were unified and encouraged to keep pushing on.

Post and Courier : Steely resolve: Nucor's Charleston-area mill fares better than others in fight against Chinese exports

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160709/160709505/steely-resolve-nucors-charleston-area-mill-fares-better-than-others-in-fight-against-chinese-exports>

David Wren

You can't blame Giff Daughtride for being skeptical of China's recent claim that it will cut production at its government-subsidized steel mills. After all, he's heard it many times before. "I think 2006 was the first news article I saw where China talked about overcapacity and the need to cut back," said Daughtride, vice president and general manager of Nucor Steel's plant in Berkeley County. "Article after article since then they've talked about the need to cut back. And yet they set a record for production in March, another record in April and then, in May, they broke April's record." Charlotte-based Nucor Corp., with 24 production mills nationwide, is the largest U.S. steelmaker, but its annual capacity — about 27 million tons — is less than one-tenth the amount China's mills are churning out. In May alone, China produced 70.5 million tons of the ubiquitous metal — almost as much as all U.S.

mills combined for all of 2015.

NOTE: Daughtridge has been at the Berkeley County mill since 1997, but has been with Nucor for nearly 33 years. Last year, he was recognized by Gov. Nikki Haley as one of the state's leading ambassadors for economic development.

The State: Fireflies shatter attendance record for pro baseball in Columbia

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article88672112.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

With 29 home games remaining on the schedule, the Columbia Fireflies have shattered the season record for attendance for professional baseball in the Capital City. Through 41 games after last week's home stand, the South Atlantic League team has welcomed 159,986 fans through the turnstiles. That eclipsed the 156,921 posted by the former Capital City Bombers all season in 1996. But the record was set in an untested stadium in the midst of a huge construction site that once was a mental hospital while fans had to be shuttled from parking lots off-site – challenges that have kept some fans away. Columbia is fifth in the 14-team South Atlantic League in attendance, trailing the Lakewood (N.J.) BlueClaws, the Greensboro (N.C.) Grasshoppers, and in-state rivals Greenville Drive and Charleston RiverDogs. "We knew that this year would be good, but challenging," said Fireflies owner Jason Freier of Atlanta-based Hardball Capital, which also owns the Fort Wayne (Ind.) TinCaps and the Chattanooga (Tenn.) Lookouts.

National News:

Associated Press: Black Lives Matter activist arrested at Baton Rouge protest

<http://bigstory.ap.org/085dc76837944b1098b5df5b204519f5>

Rebecca Santana

A prominent Black Lives Matter activist was one of several people arrested Saturday night during an often-tense protest in Louisiana that included a contingent of hundreds of people who took to the streets to call for justice and voice anger over the fatal shooting of a black man by two white police officers. Demonstrators gathered at the convenience store where 37-year-old Alton Sterling was shot before fanning out to the Baton Rouge police department and the state Capitol for another day of demonstrations. Meanwhile, in Minnesota police used smoke bombs to clear demonstrators who blocked Interstate 94 in St. Paul late Saturday night and gathered to voice their growing concern about Sterling's death and the fatal police shooting on Wednesday of Philando Castile in suburban St. Paul.

Associated Press: APNewsBreak: Cop's lawyer blames driver's gun, not his race

<http://bigstory.ap.org/d6198b6cfc14472ca007d0339db21926>

Sadie Gurman and Skip Foreman

A suburban St. Paul police officer who killed a black driver reacted to the man's gun, not his race, his attorney said Saturday, giving the most detailed account so far of why the officer drew his own weapon during the traffic stop last week. Philando Castile's girlfriend, who streamed the immediate aftermath of the shooting live on Facebook, has said he was shot several times while reaching for his wallet, after telling the officer he had a gun and a permit to carry it. St. Anthony Police Officer Jeronimo Yanez was reacting to "the presence of that gun and the display of that gun" when he opened fire on Castile, Minneapolis attorney Thomas Kelly told The Associated Press. He declined to elaborate on how Castile displayed the weapon or what led up to the deadly traffic stop.

Associated Press: Police agencies on edge, on guard amid heightened threats

<http://bigstory.ap.org/3d6fa9233c1846e38e17f8e19db2748a>

Greg Schreier

Police agencies across the U.S. are on edge and on guard after receiving threats and calls for violence against them on social media in the aftermath of the killings of two black men and the sniper attack that left five officers dead in Dallas. Some departments ordered officers to pair up or more generally said they were heightening security. Authorities have said the Dallas gunman, who also wounded seven other officers and two civilians, wanted to "exterminate" whites in the aftermath of the killings of Philando Castile in Minnesota and Alton Sterling in Louisiana. And a man who killed one person and wounded three others — including an officer — in Tennessee apparently told investigators he was motivated by the recent killings of black men by police. Since then, threats ranging from generic promises of violence to specific video postings have been made, only heightening fears of further attacks. In Dallas, authorities received an anonymous threat Saturday, prompting police to tighten up security. Officers swarmed the department's headquarters, searching for a reported suspicious person in a garage before finally issuing an all-clear.

World News:

Associated Press: Obama rushes through first presidential visit to Spain

<http://bigstory.ap.org/59ccfefeb19a49b7a6edab1c9a3b92fd>

Darlene Superville and Kathleen Hennessey

It took the White House more than seven years to lock in Spain on President Barack Obama's foreign travel schedule. But events beyond Obama's control have turned his first and only visit to Spain, the largest European country that had yet to welcome the president, into a rushed one. Instead of spending two days sightseeing in southern Spain and tending to more official business in the capital of Madrid, the White House scrapped some of Obama's events — including a staple of his foreign travels, a question-and-answer forum with young adults — and crammed the rest of his schedule into Sunday. Deadly shootings last week of black men by police in Louisiana and Minnesota, followed by the sniper killings of five police officers in Dallas, led Obama to make the unusual choice to return to the White House late Sunday, a day earlier than originally planned.

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