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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Friday, July 8, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Midlands leaders call for unity in wake of shootings

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article88455677.html>

Tim Flach

State and Midlands leaders called for unity Friday amid mourning shootings across the nation this week with racial overtones that took the lives of five police officers and two persons dealing with law enforcement. Gov. Nikki Haley joined in commemorating Dallas police officers who she said “were taken from us as well as those who were injured yesterday amid more senseless violence.” Columbia Police Chief Skip Holbrook and other officers wore black bands across their badges to show solidarity with those in law enforcement killed. “It’s a tough day to be a police officer,” he said. “We have heavy hearts.” The shootings show the need to deal with long-simmering racial tensions, others said. “Reacting to violence with violence will only lead to more heartache,” Republican U.S. Sen. Tim Scott said. “We cannot, will not let hate win. We have bridges to cross, but we cannot allow madmen to widen the divide.” The shootings underscore “we are facing some of the most challenging times of our profession,” Lexington County Sheriff Jay Koon said after talking with local community leaders to ask for patience and support.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley joined in commemorating Dallas police officers who she said “were taken from us as well as those who were injured yesterday amid more senseless violence.”

Post and Courier: One thing missing from governor’s crisis emails post-Emanuel: Haley’s voice

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160707/160709584/one-thing-missing-from-governors-crisis-emails-post-emanuel-haleys-voice>

Maya T. Prabhu

A voice that is almost completely absent from the 10,000 emails and correspondence sent to Gov. Nikki Haley in the aftermath of last year’s Emanuel AME Church shooting and subsequent Confederate flag debate is the governor’s herself. Records show Haley declined to leave any sort of electronic public footprint post-Emanuel. Instead, she used what appeared to be one of at least two pre-written template responses to reply to emails from those voicing strong opinions on the shooting that killed nine black parishioners on June 17, 2015, and the Legislature’s pending removal of the Confederate battle flag from Statehouse grounds. “Thank you for taking the time to contact us,” Haley wrote in one emailed response. “Inspired by the victims’ families and the reopening of Emanuel A.M. E. Church, I felt compelled to make a statement about moving the flag from the Statehouse grounds.” Several writers expressed gratitude for receiving an email from the governor during an obviously busy time, while others shared frustrations at what appeared to be a canned response.

NOTE: “While the governor does sometimes use her state email address to communicate with staff and other state officials, she finds it more productive to speak directly with them, in person when possible, and when not, via phone,” Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams said.

NOTE: When asked about the apparent lack of e-communication across local, state and the federal government, the governor’s office said Haley held conversations in person or on the phone about Emanuel and the flag question.

NOTE: Haley’s off-the-grid habit isn’t unique, and she isn’t the only South Carolina politician who appears to consciously avoid email. U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., for example, said last year that he had never sent an email. He said he prefers to receive texts and, if they are important, he’ll

pick up the phone to respond.

WYFF4: Emails to Gov. Nikki Haley during Confederate flag debate released

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/emails-to-gov-nikki-haley-during-confederate-flag-debate-released/40406394>

Tim Waller

When Gov. Nikki Haley pushed for the removal of the Confederate Flag from the State House grounds in the days after the Charleston church massacre, she received thousands of emails and letters from people across the country. Through a Freedom of Information Act request, The Associated Press obtained 10,000 pages of emails to the governor expressing both support and opposition to her stance on removal of the flag. "You boycott my flag, I boycott you," one person wrote. "What will you give up next when they ask. Our Bibles? Our guns? Our children?" another asked. Others praised Haley's leadership in the aftermath of the church shootings. "You made me very proud. Thank you," one email said. Another congratulated Haley for her "gutsy" move, adding: "You make me so proud as an American, as a fellow Republican, and as a United Methodist, too." "Thank you for standing up and calling for the removal of the Confederate flag. Not because I believe it stands for hate (it might, but that is irrelevant) but because the flag does not represent the United States of America," one man wrote.

LGBT Laws:

Associated Press: 10 states sue over restrooms transgender students can use

<http://bigstory.ap.org/134ed69433cc4800b63bf10659d1dc3f>

Ten states sued the federal government Friday over rules requiring public schools to allow transgender students to use restrooms conforming to their gender identity, joining a dozen other states in the latest fight over LGBT rights. The lawsuit was filed in federal court in Nebraska and included nine other states: Arkansas, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Wyoming. The filing comes after 11 states sued in May over the same Obama administration directive. North Carolina officials also sued the federal government in May over the same issue. Vast sums of federal funding are at stake: Money could be withheld from public schools that refuse to comply with the federal directive.

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: S.C. state senator's violence solution? Shut down the media

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160708/160709538/sc-state-senators-violence-solution-shut-down-the-media>

Schuyler Kropf

A South Carolina lawmaker has a unique idea to cure the nation's ills after a week of violent clashes: Shut down the media. State Sen. Katrina Shealy posted on Facebook on Friday that it is her view that racial differences and law enforcement are not the biggest problems America needs to overcome. Instead, she said, turn off the media spigot and take a time-out. "Our biggest problem could very possibly (most likely) be the Media!!!" she posted. "If we could shut down all media for one month except for weather reports and let everyone else do their job I bet we would see a change." She continued, "The media sensationalizes everything that happens stirring the pot, fueling an already blazing fire. Now you may agree with me or not but that is why we all have our own Facebook Page... to Voice our Opinions!!! God Bless the USA and pray for those in harms way today."

The State: SC lawmaker-attorney hired to represent family of Alton Sterling

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article88260932.html>

Avery G. Wilks

The S.C. lawmaker and attorney who represented Walter Scott's family now has been hired by the

family of a Louisiana man shot and killed early Tuesday by Baton Rouge police officers. Democratic state Rep. Justin Bamberg, D-Bamberg, is representing the family of Alton Sterling, a black man whose death at the hands of white police officers was caught on camera and made national headlines this week. Bamberg told The State that Sterling's son, 15-year-old Cameron Sterling, and his son's mother, Quinyetta Sterling, expect to file lawsuits against the city of Baton Rouge, the Baton Rouge Police Department and the officers involved. "This was a completely unjustified shooting," said Bamberg, who traveled to Baton Rouge on Wednesday. "It is an incident that should have never gotten to this point." The U.S. Justice Department has launched a civil-rights investigation into Sterling's death. Police have said Sterling was armed as he struggled on the ground with two officers outside a convenience store.

Post and Courier: S.C. lawyer: Baton Rouge shooting 'reminds me' of Walter Scott

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160707/160709587/sc-lawyer-baton-rouge-shooting-reminds-me-of-walter-scott>

Gavin Jackson

South Carolina state Rep. Justin Bamberg — who represented the family of Walter Scott, the unarmed black man shot and killed by a white North Charleston police officer — is now representing the family of another black man killed after an altercation with police, this time in Baton Rouge, La. Bamberg, whose law firm is based in Orangeburg, along with Atlanta-based attorney L. Chris Stewart, addressed the media Thursday on behalf of Alton Sterling's family in Louisiana's capital city. The U.S. Department of Justice is investigating the video-recorded killing of Sterling, who police say had a gun as he wrestled with two white officers outside a convenience store. "DOJ jumped in ASAP and I think it does send a very strong message, but I think a lot of it does go back to Walter (Scott) and everything we dealt with in Charleston," Bamberg said about federal authorities who investigated shortly after the Scott shooting. "The Walter Scott case, again, is the prototype for how officer-involved incidents need to be handled."

Associated Press: Scott family attorney to represent family in Louisiana death

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=JtLXpP54

SC State Wire

The South Carolina lawyer for the family of a black man who was killed while running away from an officer is now representing the family of a black man killed during a confrontation with police in Louisiana. News outlets report that state Rep. Justin Bamberg is part of a legal team representing the family of Alton Sterling. The 37-year-old Baton Rouge, Louisiana, man was killed Tuesday after he scuffled with two white police officers outside a convenience store. Bamberg says the shooting reminds him of the death of Walter Scott, an unarmed black motorist killed by a white North Charleston officer last year. Bamberg represents Scott's family and says that, as they did with Scott's shooting, he's pleased that the U.S. Justice Department is investigating Sterling's death. Michael Slager, the officer charged with shooting Scott, faces state and federal charges.

Morning News: Florence City Councilmember-elect Moore: Young black males ready to start a gun revolution with police

http://www.scnw.com/news/article_199a8046-4481-11e6-ac1a-33f507971d1d.html

Joshua Lloyd

Florence City Councilmember-elect Pat Gibson-Hye Moore said Thursday during a press conference that she's heard from colleagues in New York, Philadelphia and Washington D.C. that young black males who feel marginalized by law enforcement are ready to begin shooting officers at random. Moore said she's appalled that black men and women are being needlessly killed at the hand of police officers, but responding with gun violence is never the right answer. "Violence will only create more problems and more death," Moore said. "Instead we need to, peacefully, across this country demand more convictions on police officers who use their badge as legal death weapons. We need to demand Congress to take action." Moore said she felt compelled to start the conversation in Florence in light of the recent outrage and protests sparked by the police shootings of Alton Sterling outside a

gas station in Baton Rouge and Philando Castile during a traffic stop just outside of Minneapolis, Minnesota. She said Florence has its problems, but the police force in Florence is a good one and the citizens know how to come together to work through hardship.

Post and Courier: Jim Clyburn, in emotional speech, says 'black lives do matter'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160707/160709567/jim-clyburn-in-emotional-speech-says-black-lives-do-matter>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn delivered emotional and personal remarks Thursday during a Congressional Black Caucus press conference where officials confronted the two most recent national shootings and their connection to a run of fatal encounters between young black men at the hands of law enforcement. "Black lives do matter," said the South Carolina Democrat, punctuating each word. "And we here in the Congress must mature enough, grow up enough to have the kinds of adult discussions about the issues that plague us in this country in a way that will allow us to find the common ground that's necessary to resolve them." As the third most senior House Democrat and the highest-ranking black lawmaker on Capitol Hill, Clyburn didn't need to explicitly connect last year's North Charleston officer-involved shooting of Walter Scott to this week's shootings of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, La., and Philando Castile in St. Paul, Minn.

Herald-Journal: US Rep. Trey Gowdy disputes reasons for not charging Hillary Clinton

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160707/articles/160709790>

Zach Fox

Having a two-tier justice system in which the well-known avoid punishment while ordinary people are held accountable endangers the country, according to U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy. That was one of the conclusions the South Carolina congressman said he drew after questioning FBI Director James Comey Thursday afternoon. Comey appeared before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee to discuss the recently announced decision not to file charges against former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton over her and aides' handling of classified information sent in personal emails. "We won't make it as a Republic if the people believe there are two justice systems — one for people that aren't well-known and one for people who are well-known," he said in a phone interview Thursday night. "If a police officer or county councilman messes up, you should approach that case the same as if John Q. Public messes up." Gowdy questioned Comey on his interpretation that a lack of specific criminal intent was the primary reason not to charge Clinton. "I think Director Comey is putting an additional element in the statute that many of us don't believe exists, and that is the element of specific intent," he said. "But my last series of questions today was, 'let's assume you're right, you still have intent. It's proven through circumstantial evidence like it is in courts across the country.' (But) it wasn't going to change his mind."

SC Agency News:

The State: DHEC lifts Saluda River swimming advisory

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article88173852.html>

Sammy Fretwell

The state Department of Health and Environmental Control has lifted a swimming advisory for the Saluda River at Saluda Shoals Park in Columbia, according to a news release from the agency. "We have been performing daily sampling along the section of river that was impacted by improperly treated wastewater, along with the effluent being discharged from the facility, and found that bacteria levels have returned to consistently satisfactory levels," David Baize, chief of DHEC's Bureau of Water, said in the news release. On June 21, DHEC detected bacteria levels higher than normal being discharged from the Carolina Water Service Friarsgate Plant into the Saluda River near Saluda Shoals.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: SC drought committee meets 9 months after massive floods

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

SC State Wire

Just nine months after last fall's devastating floods in South Carolina, officials are now talking drought. The state's Drought Response Committee meets by conference call Friday and is expected discuss moving at least a few counties in the northwestern part of the state to an incipient drought, which is the lowest level. Officials say dry weather has been spreading into the state from the west. The U.S. Drought Monitor map has parts of at least 11 counties in a moderate drought and most of Abbeville and Oconee counties in a severe drought. Farmers say the dry weather is starting to take a toll on crops like corn, especially if they're not irrigated.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Dallas police shootings won't change security plans at Confederate flag rally

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160708/160709536/dallas-police-shootings-wont-change-security-plans-at-confederate-flag-rally>

Maya T. Prabhu

Security plans for this Sunday's re-raising of the Confederate flag during a Statehouse rally will remain the same in the wake of the Dallas shooting that killed five officers and wounded nine. Lt. Kelley Hughes of the S.C. Department of Public Safety said the agency already planned to provide enhanced security at Sunday's rally, in coordination with other local and state law enforcement agencies. "As with any of the rallies and protests, we don't discuss specific security plans or measures," Hughes said in an email. "However, we have assessed the security needs based on the Secessionists Party's reservations with the Department of Administration and will make adequate security plans to address those needs — including preparations for any counter protesters." Dallas Police Chief David Brown blamed snipers for Thursday night's attack during a Black Lives Matter demonstration in response to the deaths of Alton Sterling in Louisiana and Philando Castile in Minnesota, who were shot and killed by police. But it was unclear how many shooters were involved in Thursday's incident.

WIS: Columbia police see progress in improving community relations

<http://www.wistv.com/story/32398801/columbia-police-see-progress-in-improving-community-relations>

Jack Kuenzie

Outrage continues to grow and investigations move forward into the latest round of deadly encounters involving police officers and the public. It is a problem some law enforcement agencies have tried to address long before this week's events in Louisiana and Minnesota. One of those agencies is the Columbia Police Department. City and police leaders here in Columbia thought some time ago there were ways to prevent routine situations from turning deadly, and they have had success with their strategy. Leaders in Columbia launched their proactive strategy shortly before Christmas in 2014. This was just a few months after civil unrest in Ferguson, Missouri and other cities over violent clashes between police and citizens. "We're going to push for additional training. Additional training, mandatory and ongoing training requirements for all sworn officers including cultural sensitivity training, continuing strong community policing, training in peaceful conflict resolution, de-escalation techniques," explained Mayor Steve Benjamin

The State: Columbia police host prayer service tonight after Dallas protest shootings

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article88438322.html>

Sarah Ellis

The Columbia Police Department is hosting a public prayer service tonight, a day after five police officers were killed at a Dallas street protest against police violence. The prayer service event is being called "Cops, Clergy, Community and Church: Moving from Protest to Prayer." The service is

from 6-7 p.m. at Greater St. Luke Baptist Church at 5228 Farrow Road. Twelve Dallas officers were shot, five of them fatally, during what started as a peaceful protest Thursday night in reaction to the recent officer-involved deadly shootings of Alton Sterling in Louisiana and Philando Castile in Minnesota.

Sun News: Black Lives Matter protest planned for Myrtle Beach

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article88433152.html>

Christian Boschult

Chris Robinson doesn't normally organize rallies and protests. But in the wake of the shooting deaths of Alton Sterling in Louisiana and Philando Castile in Minnesota by white police officers, the father of two decided he had to do something. "I'm not an activist or a rights leader or anything like that," said Robinson. "I'm just a dad and I had to talk to my kids about the situation. My children need to know that they're not insignificant when it comes to society; that their lives really matter. I don't want them to grow up thinking that a white, or any cop, can murder you and get away with it." Robinson's protest will take place Saturday night at Plyler Park in Myrtle Beach, and he said the group will stay in the park. He doesn't condone violence and is adamant that this will be a peaceful protest. He doesn't expect any violence against police or protesters during the event, unlike the Thursday night protest in Dallas when five law enforcement officers were killed during an attack by a sniper.

Post and Courier: Forum on black men shot by police set for Sunday in North Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160708/160709554/forum-on-black-men-shot-by-police-set-for-sunday-in-north-charleston>

Dave Munday

A community forum called "How To Get Black Men Off the Endangered Species List" 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 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!"

Post and Courier: Charleston officials say police are 'convenient target,' fear more violence will follow

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160708/160709523/charleston-officials-say-police-are-convenient-target-fear-more-violence-will-follow>

Andrew Knapp

Charleston-area law enforcement officials on Friday were stricken with sadness over the slayings of Dallas police officers and with apprehension that a copycat killer would target their local comrades. The massacre came during a protest over police killings that were captured on video and spread online, and the area officials said it indicates a lawless, knee-jerk reaction that's becoming more common these days. "I know what's possible out there and what's occurred elsewhere in terms of police officers being targeted," Charleston County Sheriff Al Cannon said. "So I'm not surprised that this has occurred. Unfortunately, I expect there will be more." Other American cities — Ferguson, Mo., and Baltimore — have been the scene of riots and violence in the wake of police-involved deaths of black men. That didn't happen here when footage showed North Charleston police officer Michael Slager fatally shooting Walter Scott. But the region is not immune to perplexing violence against officers. In May 2015, the month after Scott's death, a man walked up to Berkeley County sheriff's Lt. Will Rogers and shot the lawman in the head outside a store. Rogers survived but later retired.

The State: Gun advertisements at Columbia airport upsets some travelers

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article88326042.html>

Cynthia Roldan

A year after poet Nikky Finney wondered who South Carolina's people would be after the removal of

the State House's Confederate battle flag, an advertising campaign at Columbia Metropolitan Airport gave her an answer that brought her to tears. Finney, a Columbia resident, was returning from West Virginia on Sunday, when she spotted a billboard-sized ad for FN Manufacturing's retail store in the concourse area at Columbia Metropolitan Airport. The ad shows eight firearms and in black, bold letters touts, "Yeah, we carry." "I'm still," said Finney of her reaction. "I don't look away from it, because I am so appalled at the obscenity of what I'm seeing. I can't believe somebody would put that on the wall that is welcoming travelers, visitors in South Carolina." Both airport and FN Manufacturing officials dismissed questions about the sensitivity of the ad campaign, and instead highlighted FN as having been part of South Carolina for more than 30 years. "The airport's advertising program provides an opportunity for community partners and local businesses such as FN to tell their stories," according to a statement released by the airport. "We are proud to support our local businesses by giving them this opportunity through our advertising program."

Associated Press: Swansea man arrested on obstruction charges

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=POvY2O8v

SC State Wire

Lexington County sheriff's deputies say they've arrested a Swansea man wanted on obstruction charges in the shooting death of a man in April. The sheriff's department said in a news release that investigations think Daiquan Lamont Brooks has information about the April 29 death of 21-year-old Ryan Williams of Swansea. An autopsy showed that Williams was killed by a single gunshot in Gaston. Sheriff Jay Koon said Brooks was arrested Thursday afternoon at an apartment complex in Cayce with the help of a community tip. Brooks also faces a drug related charge that happened where Williams was killed. Fareen Rasheed Makeen of Jenkinsville was arrested in Virginia in early May on a murder charge. Teresa Farris Epley of Swansea was arrested in West Columbia the day Williams was killed.

Aiken Standard: Court reporter loses transcript, 2013 child homicide case sent back to Aiken County court

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160708/160709561/court-reporter-loses-transcript-2013-child-homicide-case-sent-back-to-aiken-county-court->

Maayan Schechter

A stolen court transcript means a new trial for a 30-year-old Aiken man sentenced to 30 years in prison for the 2013 beating death of his girlfriend's 2-year-old son. On April 10, 2014, Ivory James Blackshire, then 29, was indicted by an Aiken County grand jury for homicide by child abuse in the death of 2-year-old Caleb Walker. Blackshire was later found guilty of the crime and sentenced on March 25, 2015 to 30 years in prison. Blackshire has since been moved back to the Aiken County detention center after the South Carolina Court of Appeals reversed his sentence and remanded the case back to the Aiken County Courthouse for a new trial.

The State: Former Greenville Co. administrator hired to manage Richland government

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article88420512.html>

Sarah Ellis

A former Greenville County administrator has been hired to succeed Richland County administrator Tony McDonald, who retired June 30. Gerald Seals began work July 1 as the county's interim administrator while a search is conducted for McDonald's permanent replacement. The county administrator manages all the day-to-day operations of county government. Richland County Council voted to hire Seals, without naming him, on an interim basis on June 9, the same day council members interviewed three candidates for the position and the same day The State newspaper requested the names and resumes of all three candidates. The S.C. Freedom of Information Act requires that all materials relating to the final three candidates for a public job be made public.

Associated Press: Report reveals use of public funds for personal spending

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=T9q7znHm

SC State Wire

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division has conducted an investigation regarding the use of public funds for personal expenditures in the city of Liberty. The Greenville News (<http://grnol.co/29xqC6F>) reports that the agency began the investigation in June 2015 after city's external auditor, Drake Curry, had discovered missing money while conducting the city's yearly audit. The report, which was obtained under the state Freedom of Information Act, found that several public employees used city-issued credit cards on personal expenditures. Mayor Eric Boughman, for instance, used his city credit card routinely, but paid the city back each month to clear the balance. Boughman says there were no rules regarding the card's use at the time. He says he has since enacted policy forbidding the use of city credit cards on personal spending.

Sun News: Judge rules in favor of permits for International Drive project

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article88351187.html>

Emily Weaver

A chief administrative law judge ruled in favor of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's green light of an Horry County project to expand International Drive – a project that has been challenged for years by environmental groups. Horry County leaders have hailed the road construction, approved by county voters as a Ride II project, as needed to alleviate traffic and connect the fast-growing Carolina Forest community with S.C. 90. Environmentalists and wildlife groups have challenged the route, saying the expansion of the dirt road currently in place will hurt the wetlands it cuts through and its wildlife inhabitants. In his order released Thursday, Judge Ralph King Anderson III said he found "the actions of the department in issuing a Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone Consistency Certification to ... Horry County are supported by substantial evidence and the applicable regulatory and statutory requirements."

Morning News: Thursday storms leave scattered damage in their wake

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_44b7a862-4526-11e6-9628-6f789dea765d.html

Residents and government officials Friday were assessing the damage associated with a line of storms that passed through the Pee Dee Thursday evening and left a few homes damaged, more than handful of trees down and Darlington's Williamson Park with about 30 feet of damaged boardwalk. One Florence County pair Friday was working to restore the metal roof atop their first-storm-damaged and then water-damaged mobile home at the corner of South McCurdy Road and Cromer Lane. "It went through so fast I didn't even have time to panic, but afterwards I did because I saw all the damage," said Sandra Wiggins who was in the mobile home when the winds peeled about two-thirds of the home's roof back. "I was working on the truck and it threw me across the whole side of the truck," said Gene Owens, her son who also lives in the mobile home -- left to the pair by Owens' grandparents. After the first line of storms removed the roof the second line of storms later Thursday night poured rain into the home.

National News:

Associated Press: 5 Dallas officers slain, deadliest day for police since 9/11

<http://bigstory.ap.org/df32a96a0e1d4cd1ab2cb5d2fd536dcb>

Terry Wallace

A day after five officers were shot to death at a protest march, Dallas authorities said Friday that a man suspected in the slayings had been upset about police shootings of two black men earlier this week and wanted to kill whites, "especially white officers." The man was chased into a parking garage, where he exchanged fire with officers, who later killed him with a robot-delivered bomb, Police Chief David Brown said. But before his death, he described his motive during negotiations, according to the chief. The confrontation followed the deadliest day for U.S. law enforcement since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Brown blamed "snipers" for Thursday's attack, but it was unclear how many shooters were involved. Authorities initially said three suspects were in custody and the fourth dead. Hours later, officials were vague and would not discuss details.

Associated Press: Black Lives Matter supporters condemn violence in Dallas

<http://bigstory.ap.org/dae6c38b396f400b93d0ccf0c4289b10>

Supporters of the Black Lives Matter movement on Friday condemned the slayings of police in Dallas but stressed that the shootings should not lessen concerns over the killings of black men and women by officers across the country. "My heart goes out to the victims of all violence, when we think about what has happened over the past 48 hours," activist DeRay McKesson said Friday during an appearance on C-SPAN. Authorities say snipers killed five Dallas officers and injured seven others Thursday night during a protest over fatal police shootings of black men this week in Louisiana and Minnesota. The Black Lives Matter group called the Dallas attack "the result of the actions of a lone gunman."

Associated Press: The Latest: NASCAR pauses to honor slain Dallas officers

<http://bigstory.ap.org/fe19fddb6c7f4a4c84c3497693d02476>

NASCAR has conducted a five-minute moment of silence to honor five Dallas police officers killed by snipers in an attack Thursday night. Spokesman Kerry Tharp said Friday that Speedway Motorsports Inc. president Marcus Smith asked teams and drivers at Kentucky Speedway to participate in the silent tribute to coincide with the city's planned ceremony for the officers at the same time. The PA played a bagpipe recording of "Amazing Grace" when the moment of silence ended. Seven other officers and two civilians were wounded in the attack, which took place during a protest over this week's killings by police of black men in Louisiana and Minnesota.

Associated Press: June hiring surge of 287,000 suggests rebounding US economy

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5d14e42810b341acbd5a110c911c3fac>

Christopher S. Rugaber

Employers shook off two months of weak hiring by adding 287,000 jobs in June, a robust pace that suggests a resilient U.S. economy recovering from a slump early in the year. The strong report shows that the U.S. job market was improving before the United Kingdom voted late last month to leave the European Union, raising fears of a global recession. Friday's Labor Department figures suggest that the U.S. economy, which has defied overseas weakness before, might be able to do so again. The June hiring spurt marked a sharp improvement from May's dismal showing, when only 11,000 jobs were added, and April's modest gain of 144,000. June's increase was the largest since October 2015.

Associated Press: US Rep. Corrine Brown indicted after fraud investigation

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5e6aa7fb14ef431bbfb86f2bbdc700f5>

Jason Dearen and Curt Anderson

U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown of Florida and her chief of staff have been charged with multiple fraud and other federal offenses in a grand jury indictment unsealed Friday after a federal investigation into a fraudulent charity with ties to the congresswoman. Brown, a 69-year-old Democrat, was to appear later Friday in Jacksonville federal court on charges of mail and wire fraud, conspiracy, obstruction and filing of false tax returns. She has represented a Jacksonville-based congressional district since 1993 — one of the first three African-Americans elected to Congress from Florida since Reconstruction— and is seeking re-election in a newly-redrawn district. The indictment comes after an investigation into the charity One Door for Education Foundation Inc., which federal prosecutors say was purported to give scholarships to poor students but instead filled the coffers of Brown and her associates.

Associated Press: Judge sentences former Alabama House speaker ethics case

<http://bigstory.ap.org/95af246796d84daeea0aef39c4c62df0>

Kim Chandler

Former Alabama House Speaker Mike Hubbard was sentenced Friday to four years in prison and another eight on probation for breaking the state ethics law — a prison term handed down as his defense lawyer continued to argue Hubbard's innocence. Lee County Circuit Judge Jacob Walker

announced the sentence after a hearing in which prosecutors called Hubbard a remorseless figure motivated by greed while defense witnesses urged mercy for the man they described as a public servant. A jury on June 10 convicted Hubbard on 12 counts of violating the state ethics law, including that he improperly solicited lobbyists and company executives for work and \$150,000 in his investments in his debt-riddled printing business and used the power of his office to help his business clients. Prosecutors argued that Hubbard, 54, betrayed the trust of voters who elected him to the Legislature and fellow lawmakers who chose him to lead the House of Representatives.

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