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## Clips – Saturday, July 9, 2016

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.”

**USA Today:** Black Lives Matter: Don't blame movement for Dallas police ambush

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2016/07/08/black-lives-matter-dont-blame-movement-dallas-police-ambush/86866014/>

Aamer Madhani

Backers of the Black Lives Matter movement on Friday pushed back against suggestions that members of the movement held any blame for deaths of five Dallas police officers killed by a sniper late Thursday. Leaders of the movement were quick to condemn the slaying of the officers who were killed during a Black Lives Matter protest of this week's fatal police shootings of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, La., and Philando Castile in Falcon Heights, Minn., two black men whose disturbing encounters with police, filmed by witnesses, had stoked anger throughout the country. BLM backers said efforts to assign blame for the gunman's actions to an entire movement were dangerous and irresponsible.

**NOTE:** After a surge of shootings of police last year, several Republican politicians—including Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley—questioned whether the tone of the movement had exacerbated the divisions within the country and imperiled both police and the citizens they’re sworn to protect.

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.

#### SC Confederate Flag Rally:

**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.

**The State:** Secessionists to fly Confederate flag at SC State House Sunday  
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article88538192.html>

Bristow Marchant

One year after thousands watched as the Confederate flag was removed from a flagpole on the State House grounds, the divisive banner will rise again at the South Carolina Capitol. At least temporarily. The rebel banner will be raised Sunday during their ceremony to mark the one-year anniversary of the flag coming down by the South Carolina Secessionist Party. The Secessionists, which support South Carolina leaving the Union again, plan to raise the flag on a 30-foot aluminum pole with a plastic base in the same spot it flew before near the Confederate Soldier Monument on the State House's front lawn. The ceremony starts at 11 a.m. The flag will be removed at the end of the rally. A Confederate memorial honor guard will take part in the first of what supporters say they plan to make an annual flag raising.

**WSPA:** SC Group Continuing Plans to Raise Confederate Flag at Statehouse  
<http://wspa.com/2016/07/08/sc-group-continuing-plans-to-raise-confederate-flag-at-statehouse/>  
Robert Kittle

The South Carolina Secessionist Party is moving ahead with plans to raise a Confederate flag temporarily at the Statehouse Sunday. Organizer James Bessenger says he does not think recent racial tensions in other parts of the country will affect the rally. "No, to us this isn't a racial issue, you know? Two of our guest speakers are African-American. We have African-American members of our organization and general supporters," he says. The rally is being held on July 10th because it's the first anniversary of the removal of the Confederate flag from South Carolina Statehouse grounds. The group will raise a Confederate flag on a 25-foot pole where the old one used to fly, behind the

Confederate Soldier Monument on the north side of the Statehouse. The temporary flag pole will be in a plastic base because Statehouse rules do not allow any stakes in the ground.

**NOTE:** South Carolina lawmakers voted last year to remove the flag, at the urging of Gov. Nikki Haley, after pictures emerged of Dylann Roof with the flag. He's charged with killing nine people at the Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston last year.

#### **WLTX:** Authorities Release Statement Ahead Of Confederate Flag Rally

<http://www.wltx.com/mb/news/local/law-enforcement-releases-statement-before-confederate-flag-rally/267970381>

Chuck Ringwalt

Sunday will mark the one year anniversary of the removal of the Confederate Flag from the State House grounds. The South Carolina Secessionist Party plans to hold a rally on that day for what they are calling Confederate Honor Day. "The people of South Carolina weren't given an opportunity when it came to this issue, when it came to a flag that symbolizes their fore bearers. We were shut out of the equation," member James Bessenger said. News 19 reached out to the Department of Public Safety about security at the rally. They replied with this statement, "The SC Department of Public Safety has monitored plans for Sunday's rally. As with any of the rallies and protests, we don't discuss specific security plans or measures. However, we have assessed the security needs based on the Secessionist Party's reservations with the Department of Administration and will make adequate security plans to address those needs – including preparations for any counter protesters.

**NOTE:** Last week Governor Nikki Haley spoke about how she sees the climate of the state one year after the flag was taken down. "I think that is now part of South Carolina's past. And I think South Carolina continues to move forward. I think we've seen that they've continued to move forward with kindness and respect and acceptance and I think they've moved forward understanding both sides of the issue," Haley said.

#### **Greenville News:** In year since Confederate flag lowered, political ramifications mixed

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/south-carolina/2016/07/08/year-since-confederate-flag-lowered-political-ramifications-mixed/86868962/>

Nathaniel Cary

One year ago, as sides argued outside and inside the Statehouse in Columbia over whether the Confederate battle flag should be permanently lowered and removed from the grounds of the state's capitol building, political threats could be heard loudly as the nation's attention and its accompanying media scrum descended on Columbia. Some came from the business community urging the flags removal. Higher education institutions like Clemson, Furman and Bob Jones universities said it was time for the flag to come down. Others, particularly members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and League of the South, said they would go all-out in a campaign to unseat those who voted to take the flag down. A year later, after a contentious primary season that saw much turnover in the House and Senate, the political ramifications of legislators eventual votes on the flag have been mixed.

#### SC Political News:

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.

**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."

Morning News: Rep. Alexander to host community talk on race relations in Florence  
[http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article\\_6911a146-4584-11e6-99c2-bfa664a4dc41.html](http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_6911a146-4584-11e6-99c2-bfa664a4dc41.html)

Joshua Lloyd

State Rep. Terry Alexander is calling for a community conversation about race and relationship building, after a week filled with national reports of animosity between black citizens and law enforcement. A meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday at Savannah Grove Baptist Church in Florence, and is open to everyone. Alexander, a black pastor from Florence, said a major problem in America right now is the unwillingness of people to open their minds and hearts for conversations that are necessary to peace and change. "Right now we don't respect each other enough and we don't trust each other enough," Alexander said. "Not to say it isn't there at all, but we need to develop it more. We have to understand that our differences are not bad and when we open up we allow others to know what we're feeling and thinking, that's when we can start to change."

Associated Press: State Sen. blames sloppy bookkeeping for ethics allegations

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6STwQseF](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6STwQseF)

SC State Wire

A retiring state senator blames sloppy record-keeping for why the Senate Ethics Committee alleges he violated campaign finance laws. Republican Sen. Ray Cleary of Murrells Inlet said Friday he realizes his bank account statements don't balance with his campaign disclosure reports. But he's not sure what's been improperly reported over the last three years. The committee decided to move forward with an investigation into whether Cleary's campaign filings for April 2013 through January 2016 violate the law. The allegations include that he misrepresented and failed to report expenses and contributions. The complaint gives no details or totals. Cleary says he's eager to get answers and settle the matter. The 67-year-old dentist says an employee has been filing his online campaign reports since he took office in 2005.

The State: Baddourah, wife to undergo psychological evaluations as part of child custody fight

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article88502892.html>

Clif Leblanc

Columbia Councilman Moe Baddourah must clear a psychological evaluation before a judge will allow resumption of visitation with his young sons, and his estranged wife also must be evaluated, a Family Court judge decided Friday. The two-term councilman was barred last week by another judge from having any contact with the boys, ages 4 and 6, or with wife Carrie Rhett. That directive followed a criminal domestic violence charge that Rhett filed after a confrontation on June 29 in the parking lot of Rockaway's, a restaurant and bar in the Rosewood neighborhood the couple had decided would be a drop-off and pick-up site for visitations. On Friday, Family Court Judge Michelle Hurley accepted an agreement reach by lawyers for Baddourah and Rhett. Baddourah is to meet with a psychologist next week and a report to the court will be forthcoming soon. Rhett must do the same within 60 days, Hurley said. Those evaluations will affect future visitations and possible custody.

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.

**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.

Savannah River Site/MOX News:

**Aiken Standard:** Wilson appointed to National Defense committee overseeing MOX, military spending

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160708/160709552/wilson-appointed-to-national-defense-committee-overseeing-mox-military-spending>

Thomas Gardiner

U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., has been appointed to the conference committee for the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. "I am grateful to support this year's NDAA, crucial legislation that promotes readiness, reforms military health care options, and extends vital counterterrorism authorities," Wilson said in a statement. "As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, I look forward to working with the conference committee on this bipartisan legislation." The annual bill authorizes spending and budget allocations for U.S. military spending and other activities connected to the Department of Defense. This NDAA, for fiscal year 2017, could not pass both chambers of Congress and was amended several times by the House and the Senate.

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: Heed mayors on seismic testing

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160709/160709496/heed-mayors-on-seismic-testing>

Editorial

The Obama administration heard the voices of coastal residents when it reversed course on a plan to permit drilling for oil and gas off the Atlantic shore. Federal officials should now heed the growing opposition to seismic testing that would determine whether those resources actually exist off the coast. Fifteen South Carolina mayors recently stated their objections to seismic testing in letters to the President Barack Obama, citing the potential risk to marine life and the likelihood that positive results would renew efforts for offshore drilling. They join the 55 congressmen, including 1st District Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., and 6th District Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., who have petitioned the president for a ban on seismic testing.

Post and Courier: Scott's opportunity message

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160708/160709577/scotts-opportunity-message>

Editorial

Washington gridlock feeds public pessimism about the lack of bipartisan solutions to the nation's problems. But Tim Scott, South Carolina's junior U.S. senator, is trying to debunk those tired assumptions by taking on the continuing challenge of chronic poverty with his "Opportunity Agenda." And while conservative Republicans, including Sen. Scott, and liberal Democrats retain fundamental disagreements on how to best help America's poor, that doesn't preclude finding effective common ground on this issue. For instance, as reported in Monday's Post and Courier, Sen. Scott has forged what some might have deemed an unlikely alliance with Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., in trying to break the insidious, cross-generational cycle of poverty. Yes, Republicans still emphasize private-sector solutions while Democrats put more faith in big-government programs. However, positive compromises are possible. And as the first black U.S. senator from the South since the 19th century, Sen. Scott packs a powerful symbolic punch in his quest to accomplish that crucial mission.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Dustin Johnson to skip Olympics to due to concern about Zika

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5cf01e95c90d493aa134aaf81cee0d19>

U.S. Open champion Dustin Johnson withdrew from the Rio Games on Friday because of concerns over the Zika virus, costing golf three of the world's top four players for its return to the Olympics after a 112-year absence. Jordan Spieth is the only player from the top four who has not said if he is going to Brazil. A decision could come as early as this weekend ahead of the British Open. Rickie Fowler also is undecided. Johnson, No. 2 in the world after his U.S. Open title and another World Golf Championship victory last week, is the 13th player to pull out of the Rio Games. Eight of them, including world No. 1 Jason Day and world No. 4 Rory McIlroy, specifically have cited Zika as the reason. Patrick Reed, who said earlier this week at the Scottish Open he wants to play in the Olympics, would replace Johnson. The United States is allowed four players, the most of any country in golf, because they are in the top 15 in the world.

Local News:

The State: Guns advertisement taken down at Columbia airport after complaints

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article88541212.html>

Cynthia Roldan

Columbia Metropolitan Airport has removed a billboard-sized advertisement of a firearms manufacturer from its concourse. The decision comes a day after The State newspaper reported the ad, featuring eight firearms from FN Manufacturing, upset some travelers. It touted, "Yeah, we carry." "I pulled in the commission, and really, they felt that given the negative feedback that it'd probably be

better to bring it down," said Dan Mann, executive director of the airport. The Richland-Lexington Airport District approves all advertisements, including their text, content and graphics, according to the terms and conditions of their advertisement agreements. Two other displays for FN will remain up: a different billboard and a promotional video at the escalators. Columbia Major Steve Benjamin, who spotted the ad while at the airport Friday morning, said the banner with the multiple firearms wasn't appropriate given its location.

Greenville News: Greer plans prayer service in wake of shootings

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/07/08/greer-plans-prayer-service-wake-shootings/86869662/>

Michael Burns

Following a violent week that culminated with the killing of five Dallas police officers in the deadliest day for U.S. law enforcement since Sept. 11, 2001, Greer Mayor Rick Danner and City Councilman Wayne Griffin are inviting the public to gather for a Prayer Service of Hope and Peace on noon Monday at Greer First Baptist Church. The nondenominational, hour-long event at 201 W. Poinsett St., Greer, is expected to be similar to the one Greer officials held for Charleston shooting victims last summer. "In light of recent violent events, it seems like the right time for this service," Danner said. "We invite all in the Upstate to join us for this community gathering."

**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.

Independent Mail: Anderson area law enforcement reaction to Dallas shooting

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/anderson-area-law-enforcement-reaction-to-dallas-shooting-37219fbd-47e6-6dea-e053-0100007fc17f-386080241.html>

Mike Ellis

The shooting of police officers in Dallas has some officers in South Carolina wondering if law enforcement is the best choice for them, said Williamston Police Chief Tony Taylor. "They're wondering if this is what I want to do, is this the best thing to do for my family," he said. "It's decision time for some officers and I think you'll see that throughout the state." Taylor said he is talking to his officers one at a time, telling them to remember why they signed up in the first place. "I'm telling them how much we appreciate them and how much the community appreciates them," Taylor said. "What I want them to know is that they have a gift they can give to the community and as long as they feel they have that gift, we want them to stay." Supportive calls and emails have been coming to officers since the shooting, said Taylor and other local law enforcement leaders.

Aiken Standard: Aiken officers focus on community after series of shootings across the nation

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160708/160709522/aiken-officers-focus-on-community-after-series-of-shootings-across-the-nation->

Thomas Gardiner

The tragic loss of lives across the nation this week has left police departments, community leaders



and families attending funerals amid growing social unrest.

This week, two black men – one in Louisiana and one in Minnesota – were fatally shot by police officers. Then, late Thursday, a black man, identified as Micah Xavier Johnson, ambushed police in Dallas during a peaceful protest against officer-involved shootings by white police officers, killing five officers and wounding several others before he was killed. Aiken County law enforcement agencies delivered their condolences to the Dallas victims and families Friday. The Aiken County Sheriff's Office offered condolences on Facebook: "Sheriff (Michael) Hunt and the employees of the Aiken County Sheriff's Office send out thoughts and prayers to the Dallas Police Department, the Dallas Rapid Transit Agency, families of law enforcement officers, the citizens of Dallas, and our country. You are not alone. It is our greatest hope that justice, unity and healing prevails for every mother, father, son, or daughter who had suffered a tragic loss not only in Texas but through out this country."

The Herald: York County police, black leaders denounce violence against officers

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article88510602.html>

Andrew Dys

Local police and black leaders reacted swiftly and strongly to the fatal shooting of five Dallas police officers Thursday night, in an attack where seven other officers and two civilians were injured by snipers who shot the officers who were protecting the peace during a Black Lives Matter rally after the shooting of two black men by police. Yet while denouncing the attacks, leaders also said that they understand there are racial tensions – especially after the killing of blacks by white officers – but violence is not the solution. "I have never seen such cowardly acts against people wearing the uniform, the badge, who were out there protecting the rights of protesters," said York County Sheriff Bruce Bryant. "If anybody thinks that we are going to solve the racial problems that we have in this country with violence, and the mass murder of police, they are wrong."

**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.

**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:** Charleston Muslims celebrate Eid amid month of global terror

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160709/160709540/charleston-muslims-celebrate-eid-amid-month-of-global-terror>

Deanna Pan

More than 600 worshippers converged at the Central Mosque of Charleston Wednesday morning. It was the largest crowd congregant Ruby Abid had ever seen celebrating the end of Ramadan with the Eid al-Fitr prayer service at the modest Upper King Street mosque. Men and women entered through separate doors and slipped off their shoes before stepping into the prayer hall, where Imad Musallam sang a devotional in Arabic: "God is great. All praise belongs to him." Iman Sheikh Yaqoob's prayer started promptly at 9 a.m. Eid, he reminded the hundreds gathered on the floor of the mosque, "symbolizes unity." And Islam, he said, is a religion of mercy and forgiveness.

**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 :** Company gets \$20M state contract despite concerns

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=RhQtyUUb](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=RhQtyUUb)

SC State Wire

State officials have approved a nearly \$20 million contract to a company that provides home care for hundreds of South Carolina's most vulnerable adults, despite concerns about its care and a state freeze on new clients, the Greenville News reported Friday. South Carolina Mentor's contract for this fiscal year is 13 percent higher than the one that ended June 30. The vote by commissioners that run the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs came three months after the agency halted

referrals, and the company agreed to freeze any expansion plans, the newspaper reported (<http://grnol.co/29H3lly> ). Commissioners have raised concerns about the record of the company, which has added 13 homes in South Carolina since 2013 and serves roughly 200 clients in 74 homes.

National News:

Associated Press: Veteran used vest, military-style rifle in sniper slayings

<http://bigstory.ap.org/71e58e9fbdd04e29ba1d38259a97fe21>

Will Weissert and Nomaan Merchant

The black Army veteran who killed five Dallas police officers donned a protective vest and used a military-style semi-automatic rifle in the sniper slayings, officials said, an attack that layered new anxiety onto a nation already divided about guns and how police treat African-Americans. Micah Johnson was killed by a robot-delivered bomb Thursday after the shootings, which marked the deadliest day for U.S. law enforcement since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. In all, 12 officers were shot just a few blocks from where President John F. Kennedy was slain in 1963. In Georgia, Missouri and Tennessee, authorities said gun-wielding civilians also shot officers in individual attacks that came after two black men were killed this week in Louisiana and Minnesota. Two officers were wounded, one critically.

Associated Press: Dallas sniper was loner; Army sent him home from Afghanistan

<http://bigstory.ap.org/c729e6812af54ace96fc8927a7204bf0>

Will Weissert and Reese Dunklin and Mitch Weiss

The Dallas sniper had been sent home from Afghanistan after being accused of sexually harassing a female, and was described as a loner who followed black militant groups on social media. Micah Xavier Johnson, who fatally shot five officers and wounded seven more before police killed him with a remote-controlled bomb on Friday, lived with family members in the blue-collar suburb of Mesquite, where he played basketball for hours at a time. Friends there said the 25-year-old black man didn't seem interested in politics, but his Facebook page suggests otherwise: He "liked" black militant groups including the African American Defense League and the New Black Panther Party, which was founded in Dallas. His photo showed him wearing a dashiki and raising his fist over the words "Black Power," and his cover shot carried the red, black and green Pan-African flag.

Associated Press: 'Gentle' Georgia man accused of using 911 to ambush officer

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7fb9f945f74f4ee8a596264609435c58>

Gary Fineout and Russ Bynum

Police say a Georgia police officer and his assailant should survive a shootout that began with an ambush only hours after a sniper in Dallas killed five officers and wounded seven more. Stephen Paul Beck, a 22-year-old recovering drug addict, is accused of calling 911 to lure police to his apartment complex in Valdosta and then opening fire. Officer Randall Hancock's protective vest took some of the bullets, but he was hit once just below it, in the abdomen, Georgia Bureau of Investigation spokesman Scott Dutton said. It's been a tense week between white police officers and black civilians. In this case, the suspect is Asian, and the officer is white.

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