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**Subject:** Afternoon Clips – Tuesday, June 7, 2016

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## **Afternoon Clips – Tuesday, June 7, 2016**

### **Governor Nikki Haley News:**

**Post and Courier:** Gov. Nikki Haley denounces plutonium shipments to the Savannah River Site  
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160607/PC16/160609514>

Derrek Asberry

A federal agency announced Monday that controversial shipments of plutonium from Japan have made it to the Savannah River Site, following Gov. Nikki Haley's recent efforts to block the plutonium from entering her state. Haley said Tuesday that the news is another reminder that the Department of Energy has not lived up to its promises. "We will not back down: South Carolina will not be a permanent dumping ground for nuclear waste," Haley said in an email to The Post and Courier. Reports first surfaced in March that ships carrying 331 kilograms of weapons-grade plutonium from Japan would dock at the Charleston Naval Weapons Station before being sent about 120 miles to SRS near Aiken.

**Herald-Journal:** Recycling company bringing 21 jobs to Union County

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160607/articles/160609726>

GES Recycling will bring 21 new jobs to Union County over the next five years, S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley's office announced Tuesday. The multinational metal recycling corporation has invested \$6.3 million in its Union facility. GES Recycling, owned by GESCRAP, also provides auxiliary services for the manufacturing industry. The company, based in Spain, works to sustainably recover waste materials in Europe, Asia and North and South America.

**National Right To Life:** Ceremonial signing of Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act Richly Symbolic

<http://www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/news/2016/06/ceremonial-signing-of-pain-capable-unborn-child-protection-act-richly-symbolic/#.V1cy71d1dkg>

Holly Gatling

On Wednesday, June 8, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley is scheduled to hold a ceremonial signing of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act at a special education school in Taylors, South Carolina. The significance of this location cannot be overstated. This school called Hidden Treasures takes care of students with multiple kinds of disabilities, many diagnosed when they had reached 20 weeks of pre-birth development. Symbolically we are saying that the lives of these children matter to our society, although not to the abortion industry. A local late term abortionist complained in the media that he was not consulted during the drafting of the legislation. That is correct. The law was drawn to protect unborn children, not abortionists.

### **Dylann Roof Case:**

**Associated Press:** November trial for man charged in Charleston church attack

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=It2St8p3](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=It2St8p3)

Bruce Smith

The federal death penalty trial of a white man charged in the slayings of nine members of a historic black church will be held in November, a judge said Tuesday. Chief U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel set Nov. 7 as the day to begin selecting jurors for the federal trial of Dylann Roof, 22, who

faces numerous federal counts, including hate crimes, in the June 17 shootings at Emanuel AME Church. Handcuffed and clad in a gray striped jumpsuit, Roof attended Tuesday's hearing but did not address the court.

**The State:** Update: Dylann Roof's death penalty trial set for November

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article82253047.html>

John Monk

A federal judge set Nov. 7 as the start date for Dylann Roof's death penalty trial. Roof, the Midlands charged with killing nine worshipers at Emanuel AME Church a year ago, had his court date set Tuesday afternoon. On May 24, federal prosecutors announced they intended to seek the death penalty against Roof, who is charged with murder and hate crimes. That decision sets the stage for the judge to set a trial date. "Dylann Storm Roof expressed hatred and contempt towards African-Americans, as well as other groups, and his animosity towards African-Americans played a role in the murders charged in (July's) indictment," the government prosecutors' notice said.

**Post and Courier:** Dylann Roof's federal trial set for Nov. 7

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160607/PC16/160609503>

Andrew Knapp

Prosecutors and defense attorneys for Dylann Roof gathered in a courtroom Tuesday afternoon for the first time since federal authorities announced they would pursue his execution. At the 2 p.m. hearing Judge Richard Gergel in U.S. District Court in downtown Charleston set the date for his trial for Nov. 7. Gergel says the trial is happening far faster than most death penalty trials. Only a "shot out of the dark" would delay Dylann Roof trial from the Nov. 7 date, he said.

**Associated Press:** The Latest: Prosecutor: Justice for victims most important

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

SC State Wire

The state solicitor who will prosecute a white man charged in the killings of nine black church members says the state is ready to go with its case whether it's before or after the federal government. A federal judge on Tuesday set Nov. 7 for jury selection in Dylann Roof's federal trial on hate crimes and other charges in last year's slayings at Emanuel AME Church. Prosecutor Scarlett Wilson had written the federal judge last year saying the state preferred to try Roof first. She said after Tuesday's hearing that the state is cooperating with federal prosecutors and the important thing is bringing justice to the families of the victims.

**Fred Sheheen News:**

**The State:** Fred Sheheen remembered as advocate of higher education, arts

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article82110217.html>

Cassie Cope

Fred Sheheen, former head of the state Commission on Higher Education, was remembered late Monday as an advocate for higher education and the arts. The father of state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, D-Kershaw, died Monday in a car crash. Kershaw County Coroner David West confirmed Sheheen's death. Sheheen was 79. Sen. Vincent Sheheen's youngest son, Anthony, who was a passenger in his grandfather's vehicle, was being treated for injuries suffered in the accident. He is expected to fully recover, said Antjuan Seawright, political adviser to Sen. Sheheen. "Please keep Fred's wife, Mrs. Rose Sheheen, and the entire Sheheen family in your thoughts and prayers," Seawright said.

**The State:** Funeral for Fred Sheheen set for Thursday

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article82283722.html>

Cassie Cope

Funeral services for Fred Sheheen will be held at noon Thursday at Camden's Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church. The father of state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, D-Kershaw, died Monday in an auto accident. Sheheen, former head of the state Commission on Higher Education, was remembered late Monday as an advocate for higher education and the arts. He was 79. Father John Zimmerman will officiate at the services. The family will receive visitors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday at the family home.

### **SC Political News:**

**CNN:** Graham: Trump's judge comments 'un-American'

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/06/07/politics/lindsey-graham-donald-trump/index.html>

Manu Raju, Eugene Scott and Deirdre Walsh

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham said Tuesday that Donald Trump's criticism of a judge with Mexican heritage is an example of playing "the race card" and is "very un-American." "I don't think he's racist but he's playing the race card. And in the political process he's putting the race card on the table," he told CNN Tuesday. "I think it's very un-American for a political leader to question whether a person can judge based on his heritage." "If he continues this line of attack then I think people really need to reconsider the future of the party," Graham added. The senator also urged Republicans backing Trump to rescind their endorsements following the presumptive Republican nominee's comments about judges' ethnicity and religion and discomfort with a potential jurist of the Muslim faith.

**Post and Courier:** U.S. Sen. Tim Scott calls Trump comments "racially toxic"

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160607/PC1603/160609486>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina condemned presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's comments about the Mexican-American judge overseeing the Trump University lawsuit as "racially toxic," adding to the chorus of national GOP voices fearful over the party's future. But Scott said he would still support Trump as the party nominee, arguing that disagreeing with Trump's remarks and continuing to endorse him were not mutually exclusive. "I'm going to find a lot of things about the presidential candidates that are troubling," Scott said Tuesday in relation to Trump's comment about U.S. District Court Gonzalo Curiel, who is overseeing part of the Trump University fraud complaints filed by former students. Curiel is the son of Mexican immigrants and was born in the United States.

### **SC Agency News:**

**Morning News:** DSS recruiting foster parents, will hold meeting today

[http://www.scnow.com/news/article\\_37953b26-2ce5-11e6-9c41-83bb66355eb8.html](http://www.scnow.com/news/article_37953b26-2ce5-11e6-9c41-83bb66355eb8.html)

The Department of Social Services is hoping to recruit new foster parents during their meeting today at Tabernacle of Champions Church in Bishopville. Marilyn Matheus, DSS director of public information and media relations, said anyone who is interested in becoming a foster parent should come to the church located at 29 Mendy Lane in Bishopville between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. DSS is partnering with Heartfelt Calling, a program of the South Carolina Foster Parent Association, in order to inform interested parents about foster care and providing "provide a safe and loving home for children when they cannot remain safely in their current home."

**PBS:** States bedeviled by contraband cellphones in prisons

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/states-bedeviled-by-contraband-cellphones-in-prisons/>

Teresa Wiltz

The use of contraband cellphones for illicit scams and worse inside prisons is bedeviling state correctional officials. And it has prompted 10 governors, led by Republican South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, to ask the Federal Communications Commission for help in cracking down on it. "It's our No. 1

problem,” said Bryan Stirling, director of the South Carolina Department of Corrections. The governors are asking the FCC, which governs the nation’s airwaves, to give states “flexibility and authority” to take advantage of technology that makes it impossible to use cellphones from prison, including jamming cellphone frequencies — a practice that is illegal.

## SC Elections:

**Post and Courier:** Berkeley County Council races heat up with accusations

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160607/PC16/160609485>

Brenda Rindge

The challenger in Berkeley County Council’s only contested race says she was pressured to drop out by a state representative who is a longtime friend. “(Rep.) Samuel (Rivers) sent about three people to try to get me to not run,” said Elaine Barnette, who has known the state lawmaker for years. He also called her directly, she said. “I don’t believe Samuel called on his own. I think he did what they asked him to do.” Barnette, a chaplain at Calvary Church of God in Christ, is running against incumbent Ken Gunn for the District 3 council seat in the June 14 Republican primary.

**Greenville News:** Three challenging Bright in Senate District 12 primary

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/06/06/three-challenging-bright-senate-district-12-primary/85247806/>

Amanda Coyne

Three Upstate Republicans want to unseat two-term state Sen. Lee Bright in the June 14 election. Businessman David McCraw, Duncan Mayor Lisa C. Scott and former state Rep. Scott Talley all cited Bright as one of the motivations for their campaigns for the Senate District 12 seat. The district straddles Greenville and Spartanburg counties and includes part of Greer.

**Greenville News:** Senate District 2 candidate Don Joslyn talks about his criminal record

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/06/07/senate-district-2-candidate-don-joslyn-talks-his-criminal-record/84583748/>

Ron Barnett

Don Joslyn takes pride in being the anti-establishment guy in the race for the Senate District 2 seat. He doesn’t dress like a politician, he doesn’t talk like a politician – and he doesn’t have a clean criminal record like most politicians do. Joslyn, one of three candidates challenging long-time incumbent Larry Martin in the Republican primary for the seat representing most of Pickens County, said he’s never tried to hide the fact that he’s been in trouble with the law.

## South Carolina News:

**Associated Press:** Army's new civilian leader on first visit to Fort Jackson

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=xANO9T4U](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=xANO9T4U)

Susanne M. Schafer

Newly minted Army Secretary Eric Fanning wished some brand-new Army soldiers well Tuesday before he watched them plow through an obstacle course as part of their basic combat training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Fanning was sworn in as the Army’s civilian leader on May 18 and is the first openly gay individual to lead one of the nation’s military service branches. He was on his first-ever visit to Fort Jackson, the Army’s largest basic-training base. The 47-year-old secretary chatted and shook hands with several young soldiers while they stood in line waiting to clamber over five wooden obstacle walls.

**Associated Press:** Tropical Storm Colin leaves after dumping rain in Southeast

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Dq6D2Lfv](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Dq6D2Lfv)

Jack Jones

Tropical Storm Colin headed out to sea Tuesday after dropping heavy rains from Florida to the Outer

Banks of North Carolina, flooding roads and causing power outages, especially in the Sunshine State. Tropical storm warnings have been dropped for most of the southeast coast, with the only area still affected ranging from Cape Lookout to near Nags Head. The National Hurricane Center said that warning was likely to be dropped early Tuesday afternoon. By 11 a.m. EDT Tuesday, the storm was moving into the Atlantic off the North Carolina coast, with maximum sustained winds up to 60 mph, the U.S. National Hurricane Center reported.

**Associated Press:** A little magic: Magic Johnson helping SC State raise \$2.5M

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=38rwQKAy](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=38rwQKAy)

SC State Wire

NBA great Earvin "Magic" Johnson will work with South Carolina State University to raise \$2.5 million for scholarships that bear his name. The university announced in a release Monday that the Earvin "Magic" Johnson Endowed Scholarship Fund will help students seeking business degrees at the state-supported, historically black university in Orangeburg. Johnson spoke at the school last year and said he would work to strengthen the university. More details about the scholarship are expected to be released Saturday during a fundraising event in Washington.

**Local News:**

**Associated Press:** Dozens meet on North Charleston police after shooting

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=49npDQDt](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=49npDQDt)

SC State Wire

There's concern among some North Charleston residents that a federal review of the city's police department may take too long and not result in lasting changes. Justice Department officials are visiting this week to review the department more than a year after a white officer shot an unarmed black motorist. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/1ZufeKXy>) that about 60 people turned out for a listening session Monday night. Local activist Louis Smith said there needs to be a civil rights investigation of the department, not simply a review and recommendations under the Justice Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

**Greenville News:** Widow of man shot by deputy sues Sheriff's Office

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/06/07/widow-man-shot-deputy-sues-sheriffs-office/85556018/>

Anna Lee

The family of a young father who was shot and killed by police has sued the Greenville County Sheriff's Office and the deputy who fired the deadly shots outside a Piedmont gas station two years ago, according to court records. Attorney Joshua Snow Kendrick said he filed a wrongful death suit last week on behalf of Jordan Browder's widow. Browder and a friend were sleeping in a Ford Expedition outside a 24-hour Citgo station when deputies confronted him in the early morning hours of June 2, 2014.

**Island Packet:** Update: USMC dismisses top Parris Island recruit training commander

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/bg-military/article82227107.html>

Wade Livingston

The Marine Corps has relieved Col. Paul D. Cucinotta, the officer responsible for all recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, of command. Cucinotta was relieved of command Monday, according to Corps spokesperson Capt. Joshua Pena. In an email to the Island Packet and Beaufort Gazette, Pena wrote that Cucinotta was relieved by Maj. Gen. James W. Lukeman, Commanding General, Training and Education Command, who cited "a loss of trust and confidence in (Cucinotta's) ability to serve." Cucinotta's relief, which the Washington Post first reported Monday evening, comes nearly three months after Michigan recruit Raheel Siddiqui's death, and a little more than two months after Lt. Col. Joshua Kissoon was relieved of command.

Post and Courier: Spring Valley student arrest prompts new talks on school policing and discipline  
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160607/PC16/160609481>

Paul Bowers

When video footage emerged of a sheriff's deputy flipping and dragging a student out of her desk at Spring Valley High in Columbia last fall, politicians, parents and activists began questioning the role of police in schools. As the public uproar began to fade, Anderson County School Board member Gary Burgess saw an opportunity to have constructive conversations between educators and law enforcement leaders on how best to handle juvenile discipline and crime problems. "I said, 'We need to have a conversation so people will understand how this is perceived,' " Burgess said. "It wasn't about race, but it became about race. It wasn't about breaking a rule, but it was."

Greenville News: District: staff, system failures allowed sex offender on field trip

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2016/06/07/district-staff-system-failures-allowed-sex-offender-field-trip/85565034/>

Nathaniel Cary

An investigation by Greenville County Schools into how a man listed on the South Carolina sex offender registry was able to go on an overnight field trip to Charleston found that staff failed to perform a needed check in its registration system. That system, called Hall Pass, also failed to flag the man as a sex offender on two previous checks, the district said. The man was a parent chaperone on two trips – one day trip to Atlanta in September 2015 and on an overnight trip to Charleston on May 17.

**Greenville News:** Pay raises finalized for Greenville educators

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2016/06/07/pay-raises-finalized-greenville-educators/85547658/>

Nathaniel Cary

The Greenville County School Board approved the 2016-2017 budget on final reading Monday night, approving raises for teachers and staff and adding close to 190 new positions, mostly classroom employees. The school board voted unanimously on the \$575,956,000 budget, which is a 7.3 percent increase over the current budget. There is no tax increase. The additional revenue would come from additional per-pupil spending from the state and increased property tax revenue.

**The Herald:** Sunday alcohol sales clears first Chester County hurdle

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/politics-government/article82249022.html>

Andrew Dys

oters in Chester County are closer to getting the chance to vote on Sunday alcohol sales after the County Council gave its initial approval to adding a referendum to the November ballot. Monday's vote passed 5-1, with only Councilman Brad Jordan opposed to giving voters the choice for Sunday sales, County Supervisor Shane Stuart said. Selling alcohol on Sunday has historically been opposed by religious groups and others opposed to drinking, and the Chester push is no exception. At least one group is working on a petition against Sunday sales, Stuart said, while business interests back the change in the law.

**Post and Courier:** Chinese ball bearing firm investing \$7.2 million in Walterboro plant

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160607/PC05/160609506>

David Wren

A Chinese manufacturer of high-precision steel balls and ball bearings is building a \$7.2 million facility in Colleton County to serve customers in North and South America, the state's Commerce Department said Tuesday. The 240,000-square-foot JGBR plant will be located on nine acres in Walterboro and will create 65 jobs by the time production starts in early 2017. Once fully operational, JGBR plans to produce 400 tons of steel balls every month at the site for customers in the automotive

and mechanical industries.

**Associated Press:** Beaufort moving equipment from site of old Union rampart

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ih8lkhf9](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ih8lkhf9)

SC State Wire

The City of Beaufort is moving construction equipment from a vacant lot near the remnants of a Union rampart from the Civil War. The Beaufort Gazette reports (<http://bit.ly/1VJQjE3> ) that construction equipment, pipes and dirt has been stored near the site that was once a fortification known as Battery Saxton. A 2003 survey found there were no earthworks on a little more than an acre of the land where the equipment has been stored. But historians worried that moving construction equipment in and out of the area could harm what's left of the nearby earthworks.

**The State:** Rockbridge Road bridge reopens

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article82259822.html>

Cassie Cope

Rockbridge Road bridge reopened in the Forest Acres area Tuesday. The bridge was washed out during October's historic flooding. Reopening the bridge is the first step toward normalizing traffic for residents in the Forest Acres and Arcadia Lakes area. Those residents faced at least six closed roads because of the storm. Rockbridge Road connects Percival Road and North Trenholm Road. Some of those roads remain closed indefinitely. The closed roads are atop privately owned dams that broke during the flooding and have yet to be repaired.

**Post and Courier:** Small earthquake detected near Summerville

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160607/PC16/160609513>

Dave Munday

A small earthquake was detected near Summerville early Tuesday morning. The U.S. Geological Survey recorded a 1.8 magnitude tremor just after 3:31 a.m. The center was west of North Maple Street and north of Gibbs Loop, according to the agency's earthquake map. Tremors less than 2.0 magnitude usually are not felt, especially when they occur while people are sleeping. Small earthquakes are common near Summerville, which lies on a geological fault line.

**Greenville News:** Chemical spill contained near GSP airport

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/06/07/chemical-spill-reported-near-greenville-spartanburg-airport/85543296/>

Romando Dixon and Michael Burns

One person was taken to the hospital for precautionary reasons after a chemical spill was reported Tuesday morning near Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport, officials said. Firefighters and a hazardous-materials-response team arrived at 137 Runion Drive in Spartanburg County after the report was made around 5:49 a.m. Nearby businesses were temporarily closed for precautionary reasons. The spill has been contained and poses no threat, according to David Probo, deputy fire marshal for Spartanburg County.

**The Herald:** West Nile virus found in York Co. mosquitoes

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article82292482.html>

Bristow Marchant

West Nile virus has arrived in York County. York County Emergency Management announced Tuesday that the mosquito surveillance program from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control had produced a positive result for the virus in York County. But don't panic. "This is not an uncommon occurrence," according to an emergency management release. "York County typically experiences positive cases of West Nile in the mosquito population during mosquito season."

## National News:

**Associated Press:** Ryan: Trump made 'textbook definition of a racist comment'

<http://bigstory.ap.org/87ecdf3ffc6242f78c669d483492d000>

Erica Wernern and Mary Clare Jalonick

House Speaker Paul Ryan said Tuesday that Donald Trump's comments about a U.S.-born judge of Mexican heritage are the "textbook definition of a racist comment," but the GOP's top elected official said he still backs Trump for president. "I regret those comments he made. Claiming a person can't do their job because of their race is sort of like the textbook definition of a racist comment," Ryan said at a news conference. "I think that should be absolutely disavowed. It's absolutely unacceptable." Ryan's comments highlight acute GOP divisions around Trump's candidacy, as Republicans squirm over what may be the billionaire's most incendiary stance to date — the claim that U.S. District Judge Gonzalo Curiel can't preside fairly over a case involving Trump University because the judge is of Mexican heritage and Trump wants to build a wall between the U.S. and Mexico.

**Associated Press:** Clinton seeks to cap nomination with wins in California, NJ

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a6c31e9a7791497b8950a3e3d3d40de4>

Julie Pace and Ken Thomas

Already the presumptive Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton pressed for victory in California and five other states Tuesday, while Bernie Sanders looked to play spoiler and cast doubts about Clinton's historic achievement. The Democratic race was coming to an end amid new turmoil in the Republican Party. House Speaker Paul Ryan chastised presumptive nominee Donald Trump for "textbook" racist comments but did not retract his endorsement of the businessman. Clinton secured the 2,383 delegates she needed for the nomination on the eve of Tuesday's voting, according to an Associated Press tally. Her total is comprised of pledged delegates won in primaries and caucuses, as well as superdelegates — the party officials and officeholders who can back a candidate of their choosing.

**Associated Press:** Stanford University defends its handling of sex assault case

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f407c0b2c85f4de192f238f4b71bb556>

Paul Elias

Stanford University "did everything within its power" to ensure justice in the case of a former swimmer sentenced to six months in jail for sexually assaulting an unconscious woman, saying it moved swiftly to investigate and punish the student but that more needs to be done at the school and elsewhere to end sexual violence. The university banned Brock Turner from campus after wrapping up its investigation less than two weeks after the attack, calling it "the harshest sanction that a university can impose on a student," according to a statement released Monday. The school says it reached out to the victim to offer support and inform her of the steps it was taking. "In this case, Stanford University, its students, its police and its staff members did everything they could," the statement said, adding that it was proud of two students who stopped the January 2015 assault.

## World News:

**Associated Press:** A confident Assad vows to 'liberate' every inch of Syria

<http://bigstory.ap.org/20c5e004302547329fce544d5b8d6bfc>

Albert Aji and Bassem Mroue

President Bashar Assad vowed Tuesday his troops would "liberate" every inch of Syria, just like they recaptured the ancient town of Palmyra from the Islamic State group, in a speech that reflected his renewed confidence as the military pressed on toward Raqqa, the extremists' self-styled capital. His remarks in parliament came as his opponents, backed by Turkey and Saudi Arabia, are struggling for survival and his troops have almost encircled rebel-held neighborhoods of Aleppo, Syria's largest city. Saying the military situation was much better than it was months ago, Assad told the lawmakers that Aleppo will be "the graveyard where the hopes and dreams of the butcher Erdogan will be buried."

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