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Governor Nikki Haley News:

USA Today: Jeb Bush, Romney call for removal of Dixie flag from S.C. Capitol

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/06/20/mitt-romney-remove-confederate-flag-south-carolina-statehouse-capitol-grounds/29031185/>

Doug Stanglin, Tyler Pager

A large crowd that gathered at the South Carolina Capitol on Saturday to protest the flying of a Confederate flag on Statehouse grounds received some unexpected support from two prominent Republicans, Jeb Bush and Mitt Romney. For some South Carolina residents, the Confederate flag hanging outside the Statehouse represents their heritage.

Note: "What we hope is that we do the things South Carolinians do, which is have the conversation, allow some thoughtful words to be exchanged, be kind about it, come together on what we're trying to achieve and how we're trying to do it," Haley, a Republican, told CBS on Friday. "I think the state will start talking about that again, and we'll see where it goes."

Associated Press: South Carolina legislator: Take down Confederate flag

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=TAQkUn8E

Seanna Adcox

The Confederate flag has no place on South Carolina Statehouse grounds, and it's past time to remove the symbol of hatred, a Republican state lawmaker said Saturday, three days after the shooting massacre at a black church 100 miles away.

Note: Haley said Friday that she welcomes renewed talks, but they need to wait. "There will be an appropriate time for policy discussions in the not too distant future," she said. "... Now is the time for healing our whole state, and most particularly the nine grieving families who will have burial services in the days ahead."

The State: Second GOP lawmaker calls for removing Confederate flag from S.C. State House

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article25086271.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Another S.C. Republican lawmaker said Saturday that he would support removing the Confederate flag from the State House grounds. Rep. Gary Clary, R-Pickens, said he does not blame the flag for the shooting deaths Wednesday of nine African-Americans at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley, a Lexington Republican, has said she welcomes a debate on the flag after the state has had a chance to heal from the massacre.

Post and Courier: Rally in Columbia calls for removal of Confederate battle flag

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150620/PC16/150629868>

Cynthia Roldan

The heat of the state's "Famously Hot" capital did not deter at least 1,000 people who gathered on the Statehouse's grounds to call for the Confederate battle flag to be taken down. Saturday's rally came on the heels of the mass killing Wednesday night at a historic black church in Charleston in which a young gunman — an apparent white supremacist — allegedly shot and killed nine African-Americans attending a prayer meeting.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley does not have the authority to remove the flag from the grounds. A two-thirds vote by both chambers of the General Assembly is needed to tamper with any of the monuments that are part of the Statehouse complex.

The State: 'Take it down': Confederate flag rally draws 1,500 in Columbia

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article25096288.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

More than 1,500 people gathered Saturday evening at a hastily organized rally to demand the Confederate flag be taken down from South Carolina's State House grounds. Speaker after speaker linked the Confederate flag, which flies in front of the State House, to the church massacre Wednesday in Charleston, where a white supremacist gunned down nine African Americans in a prayer group.

Note: Several of the dozen-plus speakers called on Republican Gov. Nikki Haley to take the initiative and begin the work of taking the flag down.

Post and Courier: Differing views on Charleston's race relations reveal chasm

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150621/PC16/150629904>

Adam Parker

The shooting last week at Emanuel AME Church has uncovered a chasm of disagreement and misunderstanding about whether blacks and whites really see eye to eye on matters of race. Some insist the attack at the historic black church that left nine dead was an isolated incident by an evil individual and cite the ways in which the community comes together in times of distress as evidence of good race relations.

Note: "What happened in that church is not the people of South Carolina," Gov. Nikki Haley said at a prayer vigil last week. "We are a state of faith, we are a state of prayer, we are a state of love."

Associated Press: Call for death penalty in shooting, but state lacks the drug

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=u552IIKQ

Seanna Adcox

Two days after the shooting deaths of nine people during a Bible study at a Charleston church, Republican Gov. Nikki Haley made a bold public statement: The gunman "absolutely" should be put to death. But her state, though largely pro-death penalty, can't secure one of the drugs needed for lethal injections and hasn't executed an inmate since 2011.

Emanuel AME Church Shooting Victims Remembered:

Rev. Clementa Pinckney: <http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150621/PC16/150629932/1006/clementa-pinckney>

Ty Sanders: <http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150618/PC16/150619364/ty-sanders-x2019-dry-humor-made-friends-think-laugh>

Susie Jackson: <http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150618/PC16/150619336/susie-jackson>

Sharonda Coleman-Singleton: <http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150618/PC16/150619387/sharonda-coleman-singleton>

Ethel Lance: <http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150618/PC16/150619365/ethel-lance-remembered-as-strong-woman-mother>

Myra Thompson: <http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150618/PC16/150619339/>

Depayne Middleton-Doctor: <http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150618/PC16/150619356/depayne-middleton-doctor>

Cynthia Hurd: <http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150618/PC16/150619385/cynthia-hurd-was-sister-of-former-north-carolina-senator>

The State: Pinckney's casket to be in State House Wednesday; other funeral plans announced

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article25072327.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

The casket of Sen. Clementa Pinckney will be at the State House for public viewing in the rotunda lobby area between House and Senate chambers on Wednesday from 1-5 p.m, according to a spokesman for Leevy's Funeral Home in Columbia.

Island Packet: Sen. Clementa Pinckney carried legacy of Beaufort County's black heroes, friends say

http://www.islandpacket.com/2015/06/19/3803030_sen-clementa-pinckney-carried.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy

Dan Burley

State Sen. Clementa Pinckney, D-Jasper, was supposed to stand on a podium next Friday, adjust a microphone and help celebrate the renaming of the Beaufort County government complex. The facility's new namesake was one of Pinckney's personal heroes, Robert Smalls, the slave-turned-congressman.

Emanuel AME Church Shooting News:

Associated Press: Shootings' emotional burden looms over Sunday sermons
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4EdGiWHT

Phillip Lucas

Members of a historic black church returned to their sanctuary Sunday, perhaps united like never before, and will hear a sermon of recovery and healing, a message that will no doubt reverberate throughout the country.

Associated Press: 'You are welcome:' The night Emanuel opened its door to evil
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=c2964JH9

Allen G. Breed, Tamara Lush

When Angela Brown saw the Facebook post about a shooting at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, her mind immediately leapt to her aunt. Whenever the doors to Emanuel were open to its flock, Ethel Lance was there. "This was her home," said her niece, standing in the shadow of its soaring spire, tears streaming down her face.

Post and Courier: Mourning Emanuel AME faithful to return home Sunday for worship services
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150620/PC16/150629912>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Emanuel AME Church members will seek God, prayer and support Sunday at their historic black church just days after a white man was accused of a devastating attack that left their senior pastor and most of their ministerial leadership dead, their hallowed space violated.

Associated Press: Clinton calls for 'common-sense' gun control, decries racism
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cmQOG2LG

Lisa Lerer

Issuing an emotional plea following the South Carolina church shooting, Hillary Rodham Clinton called for "common-sense" gun reforms and a national reckoning with the persistent problem of "institutional racism." Three days after nine black church members were gunned down in Charleston, Clinton said the country must take steps to keep guns from criminals and the mentally ill.

S.C. Confederate Flag News:

Wall Street Journal: GOP Weighs in Amid Protests Over Confederate Flag in South Carolina

<http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2015/06/20/protesters-in-south-carolina-call-for-removal-of-confederate-flag/>

Josh Dawsey, Mara Gay, Reid J. Eptstein

Hundreds gathered outside the South Carolina Statehouse Saturday evening under the shadow of the Confederate flag, calling for it to be taken down as horns honked on an otherwise quiet Saturday night. But as South Carolina leaders were under increasing pressure after nine black worshipers were killed, allegedly by a white gunman who spewed racist sentiments, it seemed uncertain the flag would be removed from the state Capitol.

Note: A spokeswoman for Republican Gov. Nikki Haley said she was prepared to have conversations in the future about the flag but wanted to have time to mourn those killed.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Brannon to file bill to remove Confederate flag from SC Statehouse grounds
<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20150620/ARTICLES/150629991/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Brannon-to-file-bill-to-remove-Confederate-flag-from-SC-Statehouse-grounds&tc=ar>

Jason Spencer

South Carolina Rep. Doug Brannon, R-Landrum, said he plans to file a bill in December to remove the Confederate flag from the grounds of the South Carolina Statehouse. "I'm not going to let Senator (Clementa) Pinckney's death go...it's going to mean something," Brannon said in a phone interview. "His death is what's going to bring this flag down."

Associated Press: Confederate flag sets off debate in GOP 2016 class
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=YpbQk5Wq

Steve Peoples

Mitt Romney, the Republican nominee for president in 2012, called for the immediate removal of the Confederate battle flag from outside the South Carolina Statehouse, scrambling the 2016 GOP presidential contenders into staking a position on a contentious cultural issue. Some still steered clear from the sensitive

debate, even after the shooting deaths of nine people in a historic African-American church in Charleston further exposed the raw emotions about the flying the flag.

LA Times: Debate over Confederate flag heats up in Republican presidential race
<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-confederate-flag-election-20150620-story.html>

Brian Bennett

Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush and the GOP's previous nominee, Mitt Romney, both called Saturday for the Confederate battle flag to be removed from the grounds of the South Carolina statehouse, pushing debate over the divisive symbol to the forefront of the Republican primary.

Politico: Romney: Take down the Confederate flag; 2016 GOP field: Leave it to South Carolina
<http://www.politico.com/story/2015/06/mitt-romney-take-down-confederate-flag-south-carolina-119250.html#ixzz3dhgl4NWI>

Marc Caputo, Ali Breland

Mitt Romney showed his enduring influence on the Republican presidential field on Saturday when he weighed in on the national debate over the Confederate battle flag, calling bluntly for South Carolina to remove it from the state capitol in the wake of the shootings in Charleston.

Washington Post: Mitt Romney's opposition to Confederate flag puts GOP's current presidential candidates on the spot

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2015/06/20/how-mitt-romneys-opposition-to-confederate-flag-just-put-the-current-gop-presidential-candidates-on-the-spot/>

Ed O'Keefe

Mitt Romney, the Republican Party's 2012 presidential nominee, strongly condemned the flying of the Confederate flag on the grounds of the South Carolina state capitol on Saturday, prompting current GOP candidates to weigh in on a subject controversial across the "First in the South" primary state.

S.C. General Assembly News:

The State: Lawmakers set to return to Columbia this week for budget debate

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article25090081.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. lawmakers will return to Columbia this week to take up the state's roughly \$7 billion general fund budget, assuming a six-member conference committee can work out the differences between House and Senate spending proposals.

Note: Once lawmakers pass a budget, which could happen as soon Tuesday, Republican Gov. Nikki Haley has five days, excluding Sunday, to veto their spending proposals.

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: Church shootings puts national politics on hold

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150621/PC1603/150629937/1031/church-shootings-puts-national-politics-on-hold>

Charleston's presidential stage goes quiet: Last week was supposed to be Charleston's time in the national political spotlight. Within a 24-hour period, Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton and Republican Jeb Bush were both scheduled to be in the Holy City for rallies.

Catherine Templeton won't challenge Mark Sanford: Former Department of Health and Environmental Control Director Catherine Templeton confirmed last week she won't challenge U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford for Congress in 2016.

Cost to get on primary ballot goes up: Filing to get on the Republican presidential primary ballot opens in July and the price has gone up from four years ago.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Island Packet: Sen. Clementa Pinckney inspired SC to believe

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2015/06/20/3804245/editorial-sen-clementa-pinckney.html>

Editorial

Sen. Clementa Pinckney, a senior pastor, believed you could be both a preacher and a politician. Some thought it was an odd mix. The doubting Thomases wondered if it could be done in a way that kept the

preacher honest and the politics clean. The tall, young man from Beaufort didn't worry about the critics.

The State: Minor progress and major finger-pointing at the SC State House

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scoppe/article25028812.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

IF YOU COUNT not doing the really bad things it looked like you were about to do as a positive, then this was a good week for the Legislature. If you don't grade on that curve, well, maybe it was a good week for political junkies who like to form a circle in the school yard and shout: "Fight! Fight!"

Post and Courier: Compelling reason to reconsider gun laws

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150621/PC1002/150629873>

Editorial

The heinous shooting of nine people at a Bible study Wednesday night has raised questions about South Carolina's gun laws. As it should. It is difficult to say whether tougher gun laws might have stopped the unspeakable crime of which 21-year-old Dylann Roof is accused.

Index-Journal: Let him cause us to make progress

<http://indexjournal.com/opinion/editorial/Let-him-cause-us-to-make-progress>

Editorial

He -- and we won't glorify him by publishing his name here -- wanted to start a race war. So he entered a black church in Charleston and gunned down nine people in an effort to do so. That the killing of state Sen. Clementa Pinckney and eight others took place in Charleston is not lost on anyone.

Greenville News: Follow prayers for Charleston with action

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2015/06/19/editorial-follow-prayers-charleston-action/28998055/>

Editorial

Our hearts break for the people of Charleston and especially for the families and friends of nine precious people who were murdered Wednesday night at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church that sits in the heart of the "Holy City." We mourn those nine people who died as they lived, people of faith who took in a stranger, a most dangerous stranger, for their Bible study class.

Sumter Item: Time to end Confederate flag discussion

<http://theitem.com/stories/time-to-end-confederate-flag-discussion,249223>

Graham Osteen

If the South Carolina General Assembly doesn't get the Confederate battle flag off the Statehouse grounds after what happened in Charleston this week, then we may as well replace the Palmetto Tree on the proper state flag - the beautiful blue one - with a swastika.

Post and Courier: Charleston and all of us need time to grieve

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150621/PC1001/150629875>

Kathleen Parker

Unspeakable, unimaginable, incomprehensible and unthinkable are the words we've heard and used to describe the horrific murders of nine African-Americans as they prayed in a Charleston, South Carolina, church, shot by a hate-filled racist on a genocidal purge.

Post and Courier: Growth demands affordable homes

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150621/PC1002/150629874>

Editorial

Millions of people visit Charleston every year, and more than a few stick around. But residents new and old face an increasingly competitive — and potentially unsustainable — housing market. More than 40 people move to the Lowcountry every day on average, according to census data.

South Carolina News:

Rock Hill Herald: Will body cameras in SC slow the legal process?

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/crime/article25086079.html#storylink=cpy>

Teddy Kulmala

Prosecutors and criminal defense attorneys are waiting to see how South Carolina's new law requiring law

enforcement officers to wear body cameras will affect the attorneys' workload and the prosecution of cases. A bill requiring officers to wear body cameras was signed into law earlier this month.

Post and Courier: In-state tuition fight reveals flawed approach to immigration

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150621/PC1002/150629876>

Ed Buckley

Antonio Rojas Rodriguez, a Stratford High School graduate, wants to study business at the College of Charleston and could become the first in his family to graduate from college. Cristal Carreno graduated ninth in her class from Chapman High School in Inman and studies biology and Spanish as a rising junior at Converse College, but struggles to pay tuition.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Startups, talent crop up from Charleston's growing tech sector

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150620/PC05/150629984>

Allison Prang

Eric Bowman changed his career course in 2008, when he left the software firm Benefitfocus Inc. A year later, he founded SPARC, which works with government contractors. In doing so, he joined the club of restless entrepreneurs who have left large, established technology employers to join a risky startup or even launch one of their own.

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