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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, June 24, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: As South Carolina honors victims, Alabama lowers its flags

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

Seanna Adcox, Jeffrey Collins, Jonathan Drew

The Confederate flag flew high Wednesday outside the South Carolina Statehouse, but a large drape kept mourners from seeing it as they filed past the open casket of a veteran black lawmaker and pastor. The slayings of state Sen. Clementa Pinckney and eight others inside their historic black church is prompting national soul-searching over historic but divisive symbols.

Note: Prodded by Gov. Nikki Haley's call to move the flag to a museum, South Carolina's lawmakers overwhelmingly agreed to revisit an uneasy compromise that has held for 15 years, since mass protests succeeded in moving the flag from atop the dome to its current spot out front.

Wall Street Journal: Let Her Lead

GOP candidates were wise to tread lightly on South Carolina.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/let-her-lead-1435084389>

James Taranto

"South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley called Monday for the Confederate battle flag to be taken down from the Statehouse grounds as pressure mounted on state officials five days after the killing of nine African-Americans in a historic church," The Wall Street Journal reports.

Note: Much of the "debate" over the Confederate flag seems to begin from the assumption that removing the flag not only is the right thing to do, but is so obviously the right thing to do that there is no need to take into account the views or feelings of opponents. Gov. Haley did not make that mistake:

Post and Courier: Pinckney lying in state under Capitol dome as mourners line up to pay respects

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150624/PC16/150629673>

Andrew Knapp, Cynthia Roldan

Hundreds of mourners are making their way past the open casket of state Sen. Clementa Pinckney, who is lying in state Wednesday under the Capitol dome a week after he and eight others were slain at a historic black Charleston church. Pinckney, pastor of Charleston's Emanuel AME church, and the churchgoers attending Bible study were killed by a white gunman.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley joined lawmakers standing on the Capitol's rear steps and watched as nine state troopers in wide-brimmed hats carried Pinckney's casket.

Post and Courier: Haley says she won't violate law by temporarily removing Confederate flag

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150624/PC1603/150629689>

Cynthia Roldan

The Confederate battle flag will continue to fly on the Statehouse grounds today, despite efforts to remove it temporarily. Gov. Nikki Haley said she still wants to see the flag removed permanently, but doesn't want to break the law by claiming it's down for repairs, said Haley's spokeswoman Chaney Adams.

Note: "Based on the 2000 law, (Haley) does not have the authority to remove the flag herself, today or any day, and rather than violate that law, she will continue to work to change it," Adams said.

CNN: Why business fought the Confederate flag

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/06/23/politics/business-confederate-flag/>

MJ Lee

The governors of Virginia and North Carolina quickly declared that they would remove the flag from state license plates. Meanwhile, several of the country's top retailers -- from Walmart to eBay and Amazon -- announced in quick succession that they would stop selling Confederate flag merchandise.

Note: Meanwhile, a myriad of companies including Nascar, Boeing, BMW and Michelin also rallied around South Carolina Republican Gov. Nikki Haley as she announced that the Confederate flag could no longer fly over the state house in Columbia.

Politico: Indian-American group condemns Ann Coulter's swipe at Nikki Haley

<http://www.politico.com/story/2015/06/indian-american-group-condemns-ann-coulter-nikki-haley-immigrant-119385.html#ixzz3e10sRV7U>

Adam B. Lerner

The head of a top Indian-American advocacy group on Wednesday condemned Ann Coulter's comments that South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley doesn't understand America because she's "an immigrant" with roots in India. "It's a demographic death march that the Republican Party is on. This is a country of immigrants," said Sanjay Puri, chairman and founder of the U.S.-India Political Action Committee.

Journal Sentinel: Scott Walker: S.C. governor asked him not to address Confederate flag

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/scott-walker-to-sign-bills-expanding-gun-rights-in-wisconsin-b99525930z1-309537451.html>

Mary Spicuzza, Patrick Marley

As he signed two bills expanding gun rights Wednesday, Gov. Scott Walker said he had initially declined to say whether South Carolina should take down a Confederate flag because that state's governor had asked him to hold off on speaking about the issue.

Note: On Monday, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley called for removing the flag and Walker said in a Twitter post he supported the move.

Wisconsin State Journal: Scott Walker expands gun rights, says S.C. governor asked him not to comment on flag

http://host.madison.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/scott-walker-expands-gun-rights-says-s-c-governor-asked/article_a8a5fd48-6cdc-58d4-bea7-2e0054a73a10.html#ixzz3e11SDAoN

Molly Beck

Gov. Scott Walker on Wednesday loosened gun restrictions in Wisconsin by signing a pair of bills that would make it quicker to purchase guns and easier to carry them.

Note: Walker said at Wednesday's signing he didn't initially offer his opinion on whether the Confederate flag should be taken down from the Capitol grounds in South Carolina because Gov. Nikki Haley asked him to hold off speaking about it.

S.C. Confederate Flag News:

Post and Courier: Nearly three dozen S.C. lawmakers avoid taking stand on removing Confederate flag

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150624/PC16/150629684>

Glenn Smith

Though support for removing the Confederate flag appears to be building at the Statehouse, 34 lawmakers are still ducking questions on the matter from our team of reporters. A Post and Courier poll shows more than two-thirds of the South Carolina Senate supports removing the Confederate battle flag from the Statehouse grounds.

Wall Street Journal: 'I Didn't Mind the Threats' — Former S.C. Governor Recalls 1996 Effort to Move Rebel Flag

<http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2015/06/24/i-didnt-mind-the-threats-former-s-c-governor-recalls-1996-effort-to-move-rebel-flag/>

Josh Dawsey

When he was governor of South Carolina, David Beasley proposed removing the Confederate flag from the Capitol dome. The proposal was widely seen as costing him his re-election in 1998, and it brought death threats to his family. On Tuesday, Mr. Beasley, a Republican, took a triumphant lap around the State Capitol, a day after the current GOP governor, Nikki Haley, and other state officials called for the flag to be removed from the statehouse grounds.

Note: South Carolina has changed in "an amazingly wonderful way," he said, after meeting with Ms. Haley.

Post and Courier: College of Charleston board supports removing Confederate flag, McConnell remains silent

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150624/PC16/150629652>

Deanna Pan, Jennifer Berry Hawes

College of Charleston board members adopted a resolution Wednesday that supports removing the Confederate battle flag from the Statehouse grounds, although the school's president remained noticeably silent. One member, Cherry Daniel, also abstained from voting.

Note: But college President Glenn McConnell remained mum on the issue, raising anger among some faculty and staff as well as among local black leaders. Presidents of South Carolina's other major colleges voiced strong support for removing the flag after Gov. Nikki Haley's call on Monday for the General Assembly to do so.

Island Packet: All but one local legislator come out in support of Confederate flag removal

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2015/06/22/3806452/beaufort-legislators-weigh-in.html#storylink=cpy>

Rebecca Lurye

State Rep. Shannon Erickson of Beaufort won't say where she stands on the issue, arguing that it is not time to debate taking down the symbol while people are still mourning the loss of the nine people, including state Sen. Clementa Pinckney of Jasper County, who were slain in the Emanuel AME Church massacre in Charleston last week.

Post and Courier: Business leaders call for Confederate flag to come down

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150624/PC16/150629656>

Warren L. Wise

The chorus of businesses calling for removal of the Confederate flag from Statehouse grounds continues to swell in the aftermath of a racially motivated shooting June 17 that left nine parishioners dead at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston.

Note: From Santee Cooper, Carter, who serves as president and CEO, and board chairman W. Leighton Lord III issued the following statement: "Santee Cooper commends Gov. Nikki Haley and the General Assembly for promoting unity in South Carolina in the face of last week's unthinkable tragedy in Charleston."

WSPA: Impact Of Confederate Flag Boycott On SC Tourism/Business

<http://wspa.com/2015/06/23/impact-of-confederate-flag-boycott-on-sc-tourismbusiness/>

As the debate over the Confederate flag continues, some say it has kept countless tourism dollars out of South Carolina. In 2002, the Bi-Lo Center in Greenville hosted the NCAA men's basketball tournament – bringing a flood of people and tourism dollars into the local economy – but that would be the last time such an event would visit the Upstate.

Mother Emanuel Church Shooting News:

New York Time: Federal Hate Crime Charges Likely in South Carolina Church Shooting

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/25/us/campaign-to-remove-confederate-symbols-from-public-lands-builds.html?smprod=nytcare-iphone&smid=nytcare-iphone-share>

Matt Apuzzo, Michael S. Schmict, Richard Perez Penz

The Justice Department will likely file federal hate crime charges against the man suspected of carrying out a massacre at a storied black church in South Carolina, federal law enforcement officials said Wednesday. Dylann Roof, 21, already faces nine counts of murder and could receive the death penalty in state court.

Note: Nikki Haley, the governor of South Carolina, has called for Mr. Roof to face the death penalty.

Note: The memorial to Senator Pinckney came two days after Governor Haley called on lawmakers to remove the battle flag from the Capitol grounds, and a day after both houses of the state's General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to take up the matter.

Post and Courier: Charleston activists denounce Shabazz, tactics

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150624/PC16/150629655>

Bo Petersen, Christina Elmore

Local leaders on Wednesday rapidly denounced Malik Shabazz's call for violence after the shooting deaths of the nine Emanuel AME Church members. "They are more than welcome here," said James Johnson about the Black Lawyers for Justice president and Black Lives Matter organizers who invited Shabazz to speak Tuesday.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Legislature passes budget giving counties \$216M for roads

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=alrmX0ZZ

Seanna Adcox

The South Carolina Legislature has approved a budget that distributes more than \$216 million to counties for road repair and provides \$70 million toward infrastructure promised to Volvo. The budget package approved Tuesday also sets aside \$50 million to be used later to borrow for large highway projects. But that money cannot be used until legislators pass a long-term plan for fixing South Carolina's deteriorating roads.

Post and Courier: Rep. William Chumley 'regrets' self-defense comment

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150624/PC16/150629671>

Robert Behre

An Upstate lawmaker opposed to removing the Confederate battle flag from the Statehouse has apologized for seeming to question why the victims of last week's Emanuel AME Church attack did not do more to defend themselves. State Rep. William Chumley, R-Woodruff, told CNN that it was wrong to debate the flag and hate groups in the wake of the killings.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Island Packet: State legislature must remove Confederate flag

http://www.islandpacket.com/2015/06/24/3808911_editorial-state-legislature-must.html?rh=1

Editorial

Now is the time for South Carolina to remove the Confederate battle flag from the Statehouse grounds. It should not take a lot of time, because this topic has been at the forefront of public dialogue for 20 years. When the legislature voted to move the flag from the capitol dome to a prominent position near the front steps in 2000, it was the first step, not the last, toward healing a festering wound among the races in this state.

Note: We are thankful to three of South Carolina's top elected leaders -- Gov. Nikki Haley and U.S. Sens. Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott -- for coming out this week in favor of removing the flag. The legislature

National News:

Associated Press: Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal declares 2016 GOP candidacy

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150624/PC1603/150629677>

Melinda Deslatte

Republican Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana said Wednesday he was entering the 2016 presidential race and he began trying to distinguish himself in a field packed with better known rivals. It's a long shot effort for an accomplished but overshadowed governor, and his prospects will depend in large measure on his continued courtship of evangelical voters.

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