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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Friday, June 26, 2015

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Emanuel AME Church Victims News:

Associated Press: Thousands attend Obama's eulogy for church shooting victims
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=oWYStGT3

Meg Kinnard, Jonathan Drew

Thousands of mourners joined in song, sorrow and applause Friday before President Barack Obama's eulogy for nine black churchgoers who police said were slain in a racially motivated attack. The "Mother Emanuel" choir, hundreds strong, led roughly 6,000 people through rousing gospel standards between speakers who celebrated the legacy of state Sen. Clementa Pinckney and his fellow churchgoers.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley moved first, asking lawmakers Monday to bring down the flag outside South Carolina's Statehouse. Other politicians then leaped through that opening, saying that historic but divisive symbols no longer deserve places of honor.

Washington Post: Thousands mourn Charleston pastor; Obama to deliver eulogy

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/thousands-gather-to-mourn-the-rev-clementa-pinckney-in-charleston/2015/06/26/af01aaae-1c0c-11e5-ab92-c75ae6ab94b5_story.html

DeNeen L. Brown, Greg Jaffe

Thousands of people waited in the stifling morning Charleston sun to pay their last respects to the Rev. Clementa Pinckney who was killed with eight other worshippers at the historic Emanuel AME Church. President Obama will deliver the eulogy for Pinckney, who in addition to leading the church was also a South Carolina state senator and an early backer of Obama's presidential campaigns.

Note: Inside, there was a mix of mourners, politicians and other dignitaries. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who in the wake of the killings called for the removal of the Confederate Battle Flag from the state capitol grounds, entered the arena through a side door.

Wall Street Journal: Thousands to Attend Funeral for Pastor Slain in Charleston Shootings

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/thousands-line-up-to-mourn-pastor-slain-in-charleston-shootings-1435326708>

Cameron McWhirter

Thousands of people arrived Friday for the funeral of the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, the pastor of historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church and one of the victims in last week's mass murder. Mourners stood in the sweltering summer heat for more than an hour to get into Charleston's TD Arena, which seats more than 5,100. Mr. Pinckney's closed coffin was placed before the podium, covered with red roses.

Post and Courier: Jesse Jackson in Charleston calls for 'Southern Civil Rights Manifesto'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150626/PC16/150629520>

Adam Parker

The Rev. Jesse Jackson on Thursday credited the civil rights movement for breaking down barriers and bringing the South into the modern world. Thanks to the efforts of activists, the South renewed itself and became attractive to investors and others.

Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: SC road funding falls behind expected population growth

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=nrwqLZH7

John moritz

Commuters in South Carolina's five largest metro areas spend less time travelling to work than the national average, but rapid population growth is coming to those areas, and the state has yet to dedicate money the Department of Transportation says it needs to improve road infrastructure. Four of the five South Carolina metro areas with populations greater than 100,000 are expected to grow by more than 4 percent in the next

five years, according to Census data.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley kicked off the year with a surprise reversal on her campaign promises not to increase the gas tax. During her State of the State address, the governor called for a gas tax increase coupled with income tax cuts.

S.C. Confederate Flag News:

Greenville News: More than two thirds in Senate support removing flag

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2015/06/25/senate-supports-removing-confederate-flag/29293999/>

Tim Smith

A super majority of the state Senate now supports removing the Confederate battle flag from the Statehouse grounds, according to a poll of senators by The Greenville News and senators' support of a bill to take down the flag.

Note: The support comes three days after Gov. Nikki Haley and the state's two Republican U.S. senators urged state lawmakers to remove the flag from the Statehouse grounds in the wake of the shooting deaths last week of nine people, including a state senator, at a historic black church in Charleston.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Aiken Standard: Aiken legislators, Rural Health Services CEO react to Supreme Court ruling on Obamacare

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20150626/AIK0101/150629605/1004>

Dede Biles

Reactions in the Aiken area were mixed Thursday after a Supreme Court ruling that upheld nationwide subsidies under the Affordable Care Act, which also is known as Obamacare. More than 154,000 South Carolinians can continue to receive financial aid because of the decision. South Carolina Rep. Bill Clyburn, D-Aiken, and Carolyn Emanuel-McClain, CEO of Rural Health Services, praised the ruling.

Greenville News: Simpsonville Chamber supports removal of flag

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/golden-strip/2015/06/26/simpsonville-chamber-supports-removal-flag/29339801/>

Scott Keeler

The Simpsonville Area Chamber of Commerce has lended its support to Gov. Nikki Haley's efforts to have the Confederate battle flag removed from the State House. A statement released by the Chamber stated, "The senseless murders of nine innocent lives last week in Charleston has evoked a renewed focus on the presence of the Confederate Battle Flag from the grounds of the State House.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: US ruling comes months after same-sex marriages began in SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8s4opRvj

Seanna Adcox

The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that legalized same-sex marriage in all 50 states officially ends South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson's defense of the state's constitutional ban on gay marriage. Wilson said Friday's court ruling delivered a "devastating blow" to states' rights. The high court's ruling affected 14 states still enforcing a ban.

Post and Courier: U.S. Supreme Court says same-sex couples have right to marry in all 50 states

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150626/PC16/150629514>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled Friday that same-sex couples have a Constitutional right to marry, setting a long-awaited national precedent for couples living in a country sharply divided legally and socially over the issue. The justices voted 5-4 with Chief Justice John Roberts dissenting with Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito.

Greenville News: Energy officials order review of MOX

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2015/06/26/energy-officials-order-review-mox/29345797/>

Mary Troyan

The U.S. Energy Department on Thursday ordered a high-level review of South Carolina's troubled mixed-oxide fuel fabrication facility and of possible alternatives for disposing of surplus weapons-grade plutonium. The director of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Thom Mason, will lead what the agency calls a red team assessment and report back to Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz in August.

Aiken Standard: Congressmen dispute MOX cost projections

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20150626/AIK0101/150629640/1004>

Derrek Asberry

Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz said it's his job to look at the lifecycle cost of major projects. But South Carolina congressmen still believe the Savannah River Site's MOX project and the entire plutonium disposition program are being singled out. Moniz said last week that if the plutonium program is to be properly funded, the program would cost upward of \$1 billion a year, making the current funding level of \$345 million a year severely inadequate.

The State: Supreme Court: Same-sex couples have a right to marry in any state

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article25562977.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

The Supreme Court has declared that same-sex couples have a right to marry anywhere in the United States. Gay and lesbian couples already can marry in 36 states and the District of Columbia. The court's ruling on Friday means the remaining 14 states, in the South and Midwest, will have to stop enforcing their bans on same-sex marriage and recognize marriages performed in other states.

Associated Press: Science teachers, minority students work on tech knowledge

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

The University of South Carolina is hosting science teachers and more than 100 minority high school students to enhance the students' science, technology, engineering and math skills. The College of Engineering and Computing effort Friday is part of a two-day program that offers hands-on workshops. It is meant to expose students to various technology, engineering and math skills.

Local News:

Sun News: Gun maker PTR: Horry County past rent, other debts 'very manageable'

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article25505143.html#storylink=cpy>

Jason M. Rodriguez

PTR Industries and Horry County are still hashing out a revised lease payment plan after the gun manufacturer fell in arrears by more than \$73,000. A PTR official said the market-inventory cycle combined with the company's moving expenses when it was lured to South Carolina from Connecticut contributed to financial troubles.

Note: The company's move generated national attention and Gov. Nikki Haley was on hand to welcome PTR to Aynor. It prompted Horry County to offer incentive money for the company if it met employment goals.

Island Packet: Local marriage equality advocates overjoyed with Supreme Court ruling

http://www.islandpacket.com/2015/06/26/3812580_local-marriage-equality-advocates.html?rh=1

Rebecca Lurye

Local advocates of marriage equality met Friday's Supreme Court ruling with elation and relief. It never crossed Heather Szeder's mind that the Supreme Court would grant her the right to one day marry whomever she chooses.

Sun News: New program aims to help owners make houses stronger against hurricanes

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/business/real-estate-news/article25572529.html#storylink=cpy>

Angela Nichols

A pilot program funded with seed money from the Rockefeller Foundation and Prudential Financial is strengthening 30 homes in three states, including 10 in Horry County, against hurricane windstorm damage through free construction upgrades. The mitigation initiative, MyStrongHome, was established following the savage destruction left by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012.

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