

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 7/6/2016 3:44:44 PM
Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, July 6, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: The Latest: Haley docs detail church shooting, flag response

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

SC State Wire

Gov. Nikki Haley's office has released thousands of documents revealing details of communications surrounding her response to the shooting of nine black parishioners at a historic South Carolina church last summer. The more than 10,000 documents released to media organizations Wednesday under an open records request include communications between the governor and constituents in the aftermath of the June 2015 shootings at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. The documents include messages about the ensuing debate surrounding the Confederate flag that then flew on the Statehouse grounds. Dylann Roof, the white man charged in the shootings, had embraced the flag in pictures online and told a friend he wanted to start a race war with the shootings. Haley called for the flag's removal, and lawmakers voted to take it down several weeks after the shooting.

The State: Early emails urge SC Gov. Haley to remove Confederate flag

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article87966097.html>

Jamie Self

In the days after a racially motivated church shooting in Charleston – and before S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley called to remove the Confederate flag from the State House grounds – scores of emails from across the country urged the governor to remove the divisive banner from its public perch. A California woman said "as a white citizen of this country, I am ashamed that a state government still flies a flag that is hurtful to all of us." "At this time of mourning for those who were murdered at Mother Emmanuel Church, to continue to allow a symbol of hate and pain to fly is the height of insensitivity," a New Jersey man said. S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley received more than 10,000 pages of emails and letters related to the Confederate flag and the shooting at "Mother Emanuel" in Charleston, which claimed the lives of nine African-American churchgoers. The emails, released to reporters Wednesday through an open records request, are being made public just days before the one-year anniversary of the flag's furling, which is Sunday.

NOTE: Several emails, angry about the flag, informed Haley of canceled plans to move to or vacation in South Carolina and threatened to boycott purchasing goods made in the Palmetto State. But not all of the correspondence Haley received were against the flag.

Post and Courier: All walks called on Gov. Nikki Haley to bring Confederate flag down, documents show

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160706/160709650/all-walks-called-on-gov-nikki-haley-to-bring-confederate-flag-down-documents-show>

Some of the early calls for the Confederate flag to come down after the racially motivated Emanuel AME Church shooting came from both white voters and minorities saying they were offended by its presence. One writer sent an email to Gov. Nikki Haley on June 26 urging her to remove the flag from the Statehouse and added, "I am a Caucasian daughter of a Klansman! I KNOW what that flag means to white supremacists and to be honest, so do you. Stop the charade. Take it down NOW." The comments are among thousands of emails Gov. Nikki Haley released today her office received

last summer in the wake of the Emanuel AME Church killings and subsequent debate over whether the state should remove the Confederate flag from Statehouse grounds. Many of the emails ask Haley to remove the flag as a symbol of racial hatred.

NOTE: During the sensitive weeks in the aftermath of the church shooting, Haley's office fielded scores of contacts and phone calls from constituents, clergy and political figures. The June 17, 2015 shooting left nine black parishioners at the Charleston's church. The emails came in advance of the removal of the Confederate battle flag July 10. Haley urged lawmakers to vote to remove the flag from Statehouse grounds during a June 22 press conference last year.

WCBD: SC is first state in US to become fully certified as work ready

<http://counton2.com/2016/07/06/sc-is-first-state-in-us-to-become-fully-certified-as-work-ready/>

Gov. Nikki Haley announced on Tuesday that the final two counties, Jasper and Richland, have received certification through the South Carolina Work Ready Communities (SCWRC) initiative, making South Carolina the first state in the nation to become fully certified as work ready. All 46 counties have met the specified workforce and education goals. Being fully certified will assist all regions of South Carolina in their efforts to attract and retain international business development due to its commitment to economic growth and development of a robust workforce pipeline. "We couldn't be more excited to announce that South Carolina is the first state in the nation to have every county become certified work ready. Team South Carolina's is paying off – we have seen our state become one of the most competitive environments for business development in the world, and we're just getting started," Gov. Haley said.

Jasper Sun Times: State shorts Jasper in funding

<http://www.jaspersuntimes.com/hardeeville/2016-07-06/state-shorts-jasper-funding>

Jessicah Lawrence

The shortage of state funding support is hitting counties and municipalities around the state, leaving local taxpayers to cover the shortfall. Fortunately in Jasper County, elected officials have fought not to raise the property taxes in order to cover the shortage of state funding to pay for state mandated services such as the court system, law enforcement, voter registration and veteran affairs among others. The local government fund was created to be a consistent revenue source for county and city governments. The fund is a distribution formula of tax dollars collected by the state on behalf of local governments. The Municipal Association of South Carolina says the local government fund ebbs and flows with the state's economy. When the Great Recession hit in 2008, counties and cities struggled along with the state but legislators also made cuts to the fund during the time period.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley recommended full funding of the fund based on its statutory 4.5 percent formula - about \$311 million. Neither the House nor the Senate agreed to fund it fully. A total of \$212.6 million is set to be distributed to the local counties and cities for the fiscal year 2016-16.

Dylann Roof Case:

Associated Press: Charleston church shooting suspect wants fed case dismissed

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

Meg Kinnard

Dylann Roof's defense team is challenging the constitutionality of the federal hate crimes law, a legal longshot they say they'll drop if prosecutors agree not to pursue the death penalty in the killings of nine people inside a South Carolina church. The white man accused of shooting black parishioners inside the historic Emanuel AME church in Charleston wants a judge to dismiss the nearly three-dozen federal charges he faces, saying they infringe on the state's murder case. The hate crimes statute "affords the federal government virtually unchecked discretion to prosecute crimes already being punished by the states," his lawyers argue. Also, while South Carolina lacks a state hate crimes law, there's no data showing that such crimes are going unpunished even in states without their own statute, according to the motion attorney Sarah Gannett filed Tuesday to U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel.

Post and Courier: Arguing federal charges are unconstitutional, Dylann Roof lawyers seek dismissal
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160705/160709681/arguing-federal-charges-are-unconstitutional-dylann-roof-lawyers-seek-dismissal>

Andrew Knapp

Defense attorneys on Tuesday asked a judge to dismiss the federal case against Dylann Roof because it's unconstitutional. The motion came after Roof's two-man defense team added a lawyer, Sarah Gannett, with experience in appeals courts. Gannett argues in the filing that all 33 indictments against Roof should be thrown out for various reasons, including that they assert federal jurisdiction in a case that should be left to South Carolina authorities. The argument is based partially on the Constitution's Commerce Clause and the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery. Such a move was expected. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel had asked the defense to file any challenges to the charges by Tuesday. The attorneys offered to drop the challenge if federal prosecutors stop pursuing his execution and agree to a lifetime prison sentence. The prosecutors must respond by July 25.

LGBT Laws:

Charlotte Observer: Justice Department asks judge to halt implementation of HB2

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article87910867.html>

Katherine Peralta

The U.S. Department of Justice is asking a federal judge to halt implementation of North Carolina's House Bill 2, the controversial law that requires transgender people to use the restroom corresponding with the gender on their birth certificate in government facilities. According to the 70-page legal brief filed late Tuesday night, "excluding transgender men and women from bathroom and changing facilities consistent with their gender identity causes significant and irreparable physical, psychological, economic, social, and stigmatic harm to transgender people." The DOJ reiterated arguments previously made by the government against HB2, including claims that the law violates the Violence Against Women Act and Title IX. Hours earlier Tuesday, President Barack Obama visited Charlotte with Hillary Clinton, the Democratic presumptive nominee for president. Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee for president, also held a campaign event in Raleigh.

SC Political News:

McClatchy DC: S.C. Republicans react to FBI: "The rules are different for the Clintons"

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/congress/article87864097.html>

Vera Bergengruen

South Carolina Republicans lashed out at Hillary Clinton on Tuesday after FBI Director James Comey announced that he did not recommend filing charges against her for using a private email server while she was secretary of state, although he scolded Clinton and her staff for being "extremely careless."

NOTE: "It has become clear that the rules are different for the Clintons than they are for every day Americans, and that must stop," Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., tweeted on Tuesday after Comey took the unusual step of making a public statement on the matter before the Justice Department had made its final decision. The email controversy has been a persistent shadow over Clinton's presidential campaign.

NOTE: Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-S.C., also took to Twitter to vent about what Republicans denounced as special treatment of Clinton. "I suppose the takeaway here is pretty clear: just as some banks were too big to fail, some people in our society are just too big to jail," he tweeted. "And apparently you can get caught in those lies, and 50% of the country still thinks you'd be a super President."

NOTE: "While the FBI has made their decision, it won't change the fact that Secretary Clinton flouted oversight and transparency norms," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., adding that Clinton had left "sensitive, classified information vulnerable to America's enemies" by using a private server. "Secretary Clinton has shown a serious lack of judgement in this entire episode," he said.

NOTE: Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., agreed with Graham, saying that Clinton's actions were "remarkably careless and displayed a lack of judgement." "The FBI couldn't rule out that her server could have been hacked, endangering lives and putting American families at risk," he said.

Greenville News: Rex Rice agrees with Martin on 'dark money' donors

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/07/05/rex-rice-agrees-martin-dark-money-donors/86710826/>

Tim Smith

Rex Rice may have benefited from the use of "dark money" in his successful campaign to replace Sen. Larry Martin of Pickens but that doesn't mean Rice agreed with the fliers and what was being said about his opponent. In fact, Rice told The Greenville News, he would like to see donors to dark-money organizations disclosed. "People were handing out fliers and doing it on behalf of our campaign," he said. "Quite honestly they were negative and I didn't like that and I didn't want them in my neighborhood." Rice defeated Martin, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a 24-year Senate veteran, June 28 in a runoff for the Senate District 2 seat. Martin had been the target for months by non-candidate groups that by law do not have to disclose who funds them. At times they made calls to voters and at times they sent out mailers or fliers.

Post and Courier: 15 S.C. mayors urge Obama to say no to seismic blasting

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160705/160709732/15-sc-mayors-urge-obama-to-say-no-to-seismic-blasting>

Robert Behre

Most Lowcountry mayors have signed a letter urging President Barack Obama to oppose seismic airgun blasting for the Atlantic Ocean. Beaufort Mayor Billy Keyserling led the effort, and he was joined by the mayors of Charleston, Mount Pleasant, James Island, Isle of Palms, Sullivan's Island, Folly Beach, Seabrook Island, Rockville and Edisto Beach, among others. In March, the federal government decided not to permit drilling for oil and natural gas off the South Carolina coast, but three companies currently have state approval for seismic testing offshore for oil and natural gas — and none have withdrawn their applications. Conservation groups now are targeting those permits.

SC Agency News:

The State: DOR: Lexington woman arrested after failing to file, pay taxes on \$3.5 million

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article87979522.html>

Jane Moon Dial

A Lexington woman who made millions failed to pay taxes for two years, according to officials. The S. C. Department of Revenue reported investigators and Lexington County deputies arrested Ashley Monique Speer, 31, of Lexington, Wednesday. Speer's income totaled more than \$3.5 million in 2013 and 2014, according to a news release from SCDOR. She was required to file and pay South Carolina income taxes but reportedly failed to do so. SCDOR stated she owes \$18,719 to the state. Speer was charged with two counts of failure to file and pay income taxes.

CCU wins 2016 CWS:

Sun News: Gilmore the not-so-secret ingredient in Chanticleers' crowning achievement

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/sports/college/big-south/coastal-carolina-university/article87922527.html>

Ryan Young

There should certainly be a statue of Gary Gilmore going up outside of Springs Brooks Stadium one day soon, and the only question need be what pose or expression it captures from him. Watching the emotion on Gilmore's face as a dream far greater than even he had ever imagined came to fruition these last few weeks has produced the most indelible images of Coastal Carolina's run to the College World Series championship. And for those who didn't know the back story until the Chanticleers got

to Omaha, who didn't know how much effort and perseverance and unrelenting belief and sheer will that man put into making this happen, they only needed to see his reaction after the NCAA super regionals at LSU as he leapt into assistant coach Matt Schilling's arms with a rush of euphoria coming through his face.

Sun News: CCU salute from TCU regarded as class act

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/sports/college/big-south/coastal-carolina-university/article87931202.html>

An ad in a special section honoring Coastal Carolina's national championship in baseball is getting plenty of attention on social media. A full-page in the section, published Wednesday in The Sun News, came via TCU, the team the Chanticleers defeated twice to reach the deciding three-game series at the College World Series last week.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Travel + Leisure magazine names Charleston 'Best City in World'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160706/160709686/travel--leisure-magazine-names-charleston-best-city-in-world>

Warren L. Wise

Charleston is on top of the world. For the first time ever, readers of Travel + Leisure magazine voted the Holy City No. 1 on the planet in the tourism periodical's World's Best City ranking. It's also the first time a U.S. destination earned the honor. Readers also selected Charleston as the No. 1 city in the U.S. and Canada for the fourth consecutive year. The magazine announced the findings on its website Wednesday and on NBC's "Today Show." Nearby Savannah came in at No. 9. New Orleans ranked No. 7. No other U.S. cities made the magazine's Top 15 list. Charleston took top marks in the categories of sights/landmarks, culture/arts, restaurants/food, people/friendliness, shopping and value, scoring 91.66 overall.

Aiken Standard: Travel + Leisure magazine names Willcox No. 7 best hotel in the world, No. 1 best hotel in the South

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160706/160709675/travel--leisure-magazine-names-willcox-no-7-best-hotel-in-the-world-no-1-best-hotel-in-the-south->

Dan Brown

Travel + Leisure magazine has named Aiken's Willcox hotel the No. 7 best hotel in the world. The magazine gave the "equestrian escape" hotel a score of 97.25. Hotels were graded based upon rooms/facilities, location, service, food and value, according to the magazine's website. "And newcomers really shook up the rankings. The Spectator and the Singular are among them, as are the elegant, old-world Casa Gangotena in Quito, Ecuador, which came in eighth, and equestrian escape at the Willcox, in Aiken, South Carolina (No. 7)," the website states. The "World's Best" is a travel awards program run by Travel+Leisure and determined by an annual reader survey. In addition to hotels and hotel brands, readers rate airlines, airports, car-rental agencies, cities, cruise ships, destination spas, islands, tour operators, and safari outfitters. In addition to the No. 7 spot, The Willcox also took the magazine's No. 1 spot as best hotel in the South.

Local News:

Associated Press: Timmons ville police chief fired after town loan for bail

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

SC State Wire

Timmons ville's mayor has fired its police chief several months after the town gave him a \$4,000 loan to bail him out of jail. Mayor Darrick Jackson told media outlets he lost confidence in Chief Gregory Palmer, but would not say whether the loan to pay bail for failing to pay child support played a part in that decision. Palmer says he was never given a chance to talk to town council or the mayor. Palmer

was hired in 2014 after Timmonsville reorganized its police force, which was disbanded in 2012 because the town didn't have enough money. Several town council members disagreed with the mayor's decision. Councilman Paul Jackson says Palmer was doing an excellent job and the mayor is making bad decisions for Timmonsville's future.

Associated Press: New police chief says Pendleton officers on street Aug. 1

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=sdL1bA7x

SC State Wire

The new police chief in Pendleton says the department should be on the street starting next month. The Anderson Independent Mail reported (<http://bit.ly/29xYPDv>) the town has decided to have a police department again after the department was shut down in 2006. Chief Doyle Burdette was hired last fall to restart the police department. Burdette told the town council Tuesday that he and his men would begin regular operations Aug. 1. The three-person department will not be able to provide 24-hour coverage. The Anderson County Sheriff's Office will continue to respond to call in off hours. The Sheriff's Office has patrolled the town since 2006. Burdette worked previously for police department in Greenville and Belton.

Independent Mail: Stephens County considers social host ordinance

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/stephens-county-considers-social-host-ordinance-36f89652-505e-47e7-e053-0100007f7b73-385697131.html>

Stephens County commissioners are going to look at a request for the county to implement an ordinance to hold adults more accountable for underage drinking. Carmen Westbrook from Hearts for Families made a presentation about a possible social host ordinance at the County Board of Commissioners meeting late last month. Westbrook said current laws sometimes can make it difficult to hold adults accountable when teens are drinking. "What happens when law enforcement responds to a drinking party but is unable to determine who the supplier is, is nothing happens; and even if you are able to determine who the supplier is, if the supplier is different from the person who owns the environment where the party is occurring, then that is a whole other scenario," Westbrook said.

Island Packet: Bluffton man accused of threatening to 'blow away' mayor

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/crime/article87940042.html>

Caitlin Turner

A Bluffton man was charged with threatening public officials June 30 after he allegedly told Mayor Lisa Sulka, "You run away. I can blow you away now," according to two Bluffton Police Department reports. Garfield Moss Jr., 25, also was charged with reckless driving and two counts of third-degree assault and battery. The same day as the incident with Sulka, Moss Jr. allegedly threatened the lives of two town employees, a separate report said. "I have never had this happen before," Sulka said Wednesday. "I really have no idea what caused him to react the way he did that day." The first incident was reported around 10:30 a.m. on May River Road near Buckwalter Parkway, according to the report.

The Herald: Police: Northwestern assistant principal left trail of messages in sex misconduct case

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/crime/article87972857.html>

Jennifer Becknell

A Northwestern High School assistant principal accused of sexual misconduct with students left a trail of electronic messages for nearly a year with one of his victims, police testified Wednesday. After nearly three hours of debate in a preliminary court hearing over the content of the messages, Circuit Court Judge Mandrile Young ruled that probable cause exists to prosecute Kenneth Andrew Williams on five charges of criminal sexual conduct. Deputy 16th Circuit Solicitor Erin Joyner moved to dismiss a sixth charge of unlawful conduct toward a child against Williams, saying there was not enough evidence to move forward with that case. The five charges Young ruled on include four counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor and one count of second-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor. The charges allege that Williams had sex with a female student, now 17,

beginning in May 2014 and that he used coercion and threats to continue the relationship.

Post and Courier: School cafeteria workers hold off on boycott as investigation continues

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160706/160709653/school-cafeteria-workers-hold-off-on-boycott-as-investigation-continues>

Paul Bowers

Charleston County school cafeteria workers and activists are holding off on a boycott of local car dealerships pending the results of an investigation regarding alleged discrimination in the schools' foodservice department. Among other issues, current and former cafeteria workers have alleged that leaders in the Nutrition Services Department were using racial slurs, unfairly giving leadership positions to white males and failing to pay for overtime hours in short-staffed school kitchens. Workers have handed the district more than 30 written complaints, and some picketed in front of the district's central office June 6. National Action Network State Coordinator Elder James Johnson announced that his organization would help organize a countywide boycott of car dealerships if certain demands were not met within 30 days, including an immediate stop to "racism and discrimination along with the wage theft" in the Nutrition Services Department.

Post and Courier: Last-minute deal saves 300 jobs at Century Aluminum's Mount Holly smelter

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160706/160709671/last-minute-deal-saves-300-jobs-at-century-aluminums-mount-holly-smelter>

David Wren

Century Aluminum has renegotiated a power deal that will keep its Mount Holly smelter, and its 300 employees, working for at least the next year to 18 months. Mike Bless, Century's president and CEO, told The Post and Courier on Wednesday that the deal with an out-of-state utility will provide three-fourths of Mount Holly's required 200 megawatts of electricity each day at about half the cost Santee Cooper charges for the other 25 percent. Under its current contract with Santee Cooper, Century must buy one-fourth of its power from the Moncks Corner utility. Bless did not name the out-of-state provider but said it is able to offer cheap electricity generated by natural gas. Santee Cooper uses more expensive and highly regulated coal to generate most of its electricity. Bless said it will continue to look for ways to buy all of its electricity out-of-state while the Mount Holly site continues to operate at 50 percent. An effort by state legislators to find such a solution failed this spring in the General Assembly.

Greenville News: Yanfeng Automotive Interiors expanding in Fountain Inn

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/2016/07/06/yanfeng-automotive-interiors-acquires-faurecia-plans-expand-fountain-inn/86748050/>

After acquiring automotive interior manufacturer Faurecia, Yanfeng Automotive Interiors will expand the existing Fountain Inn facility by 100,000 square feet, adding 35 new jobs. The expansion project is expected to bring \$71 million in new investment, according to the S.C. Department of Commerce. Yanfeng will supply BMW with components including door panels, instrument panels and floor consoles for multiple car models. This will be an expansion of Yanfeng's current relationship with BMW, which has its U.S. manufacturing headquarters in Greer. "We are pleased to be part of the community and look forward to working with the employees at the plant, and expanding our relationship with BMW," said Nathan Bowen, vice president and general manager of Yanfeng Automotive Interiors, North America, in a Department of Commerce release. "We appreciate the partnership with our customers, as well as local and state officials, who are working closely with us as we transfer control of operations at this manufacturing facility."

Greenville News: Drought creeping up on Upstate

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/07/05/drought-creeping-up-upstate/86723134/>

Ron Barnett

Ole Man Drought appears to be raising his ugly head over the Upstate again. The South Carolina

Drought Response Committee is scheduled to meet Friday, and State Climatologist Hope Mizzell said it's likely that several Upstate counties will be declared in the first stage of drought. "Obviously, we've been in a dry pattern here for several weeks now, with above normal temperatures and higher evaporation rates," she said. "So, slowly over the last few weeks a number of our indicators are showing that drought conditions are increasing." Pickens, Oconee and Anderson counties are among the hardest hit, she said.

National News:

Associated Press: Obama to slow pace of Afghanistan troop withdrawal

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4ae8f0514e4348c78cf7f1f79ef44aac>

Josh Lederman

The U.S. will slow its troop drawdown in Afghanistan, leaving a force of 8,400 when President Barack Obama completes his term, the president announced Wednesday in a blunt acknowledgment that America will remain entangled there despite his aspirations to end the war. Flanked by top military leaders at the White House, Obama said the security situation in Afghanistan is "precarious" and the Taliban remain a threat roughly 15 years after the U.S. invaded in the aftermath of 9/11. He said he was committed not to allow any group to use Afghanistan "as a safe haven for terrorists to attack our nation again." "It is in our national security interest — especially after all the blood and treasure we've invested in Afghanistan over the years — that we give our Afghan partners the very best opportunity to succeed," Obama said. There are currently about 9,800 troops in Afghanistan, and Obama had planned to pull that back to 5,500 by year-end. But a Taliban resurgence and the Afghan military's continuing struggles have led the White House to rethink its exit strategy.

Associated Press: GOP to examine FBI decision on Clinton emails

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ae82f747cdb7477bab64786c4487192c>

Erica Werner

Irate that Hillary Clinton will not face criminal charges over her emails, House Republicans are summoning FBI Director James Comey to Capitol Hill to answer their questions. Comey will testify Thursday before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, the panel's chairman, Jason Chaffetz of Utah, announced Wednesday. The announcement came a day after Comey rebuked Clinton for "extremely careless" behavior in her handling of classified emails as secretary of state, but declared that "no charges are appropriate" in the case. "There are a lot of questions that have to be answered. And so we're going to be asking those questions," House Speaker Paul Ryan told reporters, adding that it looked like Clinton had gotten preferential treatment. "We have seen nothing but stonewalling and dishonesty from Secretary Clinton on this issue, and that means there are a lot more questions that need to be answered."

Associated Press: Trump raises \$51 million for campaign and GOP allies

<http://bigstory.ap.org/d1ce38c0f3b7499ab56df3ddfb69c429>

Julie Bykowicz

Donald Trump says he raised \$51 million for his campaign and allied Republicans in recent weeks — a dramatic uptick from his May numbers but less than likely Democratic presidential opponent Hillary Clinton's June haul. Trump previewed his latest fundraising numbers Tuesday night on Twitter by writing, "Raised a lot of money for the Republican Party. There will be a big gasp when the figures are announced in the morning. Lots of support! Win. Clinton raised almost \$70 million in June for her campaign and Democratic partners, her campaign announced last week, an amount that included about \$40 million that went directly into her campaign coffers. In a release, Trump says his campaign raised \$26 million online in the month of June, a small portion of which will go to the RNC, per a fundraising agreement. Additionally, Trump and the RNC raised \$25 million during 22 events in June and the final week of May, the release said.

Associated Press: Conservative opposition endangers House Republican gun bill

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b440657480f2469ebb609352462dbf3f>

Alan Farm

Conservative opposition put a House Republican gun and anti-terrorism bill in jeopardy Wednesday, delivering an embarrassing slap to Speaker Paul Ryan and his effort to mount a legislative response to last month's Orlando mass shooting. Even as Democrats castigated the election-year GOP measure as ineffective and demanded votes on their own gun curbing plans, the often defiant House Freedom Caucus said it opposed the Republican package. The group has around 40 members, and with solid Democratic opposition, GOP leaders would lack the votes to move the bill forward. Despite the National Rifle Association's endorsement of similar GOP legislation in the Senate, the Freedom Caucus complained that the House bill, which Ryan has been pushing, did not adequately protect gun owners' rights. They also said its anti-terror provisions, chiefly creating a new federal office focused on "radical Islamist terrorism" within the U.S., did not go far enough.

Associated Press: In lawsuit, Gretchen Carlson alleges sex harassment at Fox

<http://bigstory.ap.org/92c5132b4fc94b15818f5c69e3de5d3d>

David Bauder

Former Fox News Channel anchor Gretchen Carlson sued network chief executive Roger Ailes on Wednesday, claiming she was fired after she refused his sexual advances. Fox News representatives did not immediately return requests for comment on the lawsuit, which was filed in Superior Court in New Jersey's Bergen County. Carlson, the former host of a daytime show at Fox, alleged Ailes had retaliated against her because of complaints she had made about discrimination and harassment. The 11-year Fox employee was anchoring a 2 p.m. show when she said she was fired on June 23 at the end of her contract. She said her firing came nine months after Ailes told her during a meeting that "you and I should have had a sexual relationship a long time ago."

Associated Press: Feds open investigation into deadly police shooting

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7c05717141d74ef58d9bd9b1775a8494>

Mike Kunzelman

The U.S. Justice Department opened a civil rights investigation Wednesday into the videotaped police killing of a black man who authorities say had a gun as he wrestled with two white officers on the pavement outside a convenience store. Alton Sterling, 37, was confronted by police on Tuesday after an anonymous caller said he had threatened someone with a gun outside the store, where he was selling homemade CDs, authorities said. In a cellphone video taken by a community activist and posted online, the two officers pinned Sterling to the ground, someone yelled, "He's got a gun! Gun!" and gunfire erupted moments later. At a news conference Wednesday, Baton Rouge Police Chief Carl Dabadie Jr. said that Sterling was in fact armed but that there are still questions about what happened.

World News:

Associated Press: Muslims worldwide struggle to comprehend a violent Ramadan

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b78f4511cd7048a2bf81bca04746a6ad>

Zeina Karam and Sarah El Deeb

As Muslims celebrate the end of Ramadan, many are struggling to comprehend a wave of attacks that killed 350 people across several countries during the holy month and raised the question of what drives the militants to ever more spectacular violence. The high-profile attacks underline the warnings by many experts that the Islamic State group, especially when on the defensive, will metastasize far beyond its theater of operations. The extremist group has always sought attention and recruits through terrorism, which has proven to be a winning strategy among its disenfranchised and angry followers. The loss of its key city of Fallujah capped a series of recent setbacks in Iraq, and the group is pushing to project its strength while also diverting attention from its battlefield humiliations.

Associated Press: Oscar Pistorius sentenced to 6 years in prison for murder

<http://bigstory.ap.org/cb13f37f97594f98a49a5dba68084ee6>

Christopher Torchia and Gerald Imray

Oscar Pistorius, the double-amputee Olympian described by a judge as a "fallen hero," was sentenced on Wednesday to six years in a South African prison for the murder of girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp, a ruling viewed by some as too lenient. However, Judge Thokozile Masipa appeared to anticipate criticism of a jail term that fell far short of the normally mandated 15 years for murder under South African law, declaring: "Our courts are courts of law, not courts of public opinion." Pistorius, who shot Steenkamp through the door of a toilet cubicle in his home in 2013, was asked to stand and face Masipa as she announced his sentence in a wood-paneled courtroom in the South African capital, Pretoria. He was calm after the ruling, embracing his aunt and tearful sister before being led down a courtroom staircase to a holding cell ahead of being taken to prison.

Associated Press: UK report slams Iraq war; Blair says he acted in good faith

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b8fced93b6b456b80a028070990cc23>

Jill Lawless

Prime Minister Tony Blair led Britain into an unsuccessful war in Iraq through a mix of flawed intelligence, "wholly inadequate" planning and an exaggerated sense of the U.K.'s ability to influence the United States, according to a damning official report on the conflict that was published Wednesday. The government-commissioned inquiry fell short of delivering what many bereaved families sought — a declaration that the 2003 war was illegal. But its 2.6 million words give the most comprehensive verdict to date on the mistakes of a conflict whose violent aftershocks still rattle the world. Blair, however, stood by his decision to join U.S. President George W. Bush in toppling Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. "I believe I made the right decision and that the world is better and safer as a result of it," he said.

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