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## Clips – Saturday, June 20, 2015

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

**Post and Courier:** South Carolina pressured to remove Confederate battle flag after church killings  
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150619/PC16/150619312/1031/south-carolina-pressured-to-remove-confederate-battle-flag-after-church-killings>

Cynthia Roldan

During a gubernatorial debate last fall, Gov. Nikki Haley described the Confederate battle flag on the Statehouse grounds as a “sensitive issue” but dismissed her Democratic rival’s call to remove it. Her reasoning was that it had not interfered with the state’s ability to attract job-producing corporations.

**Note:** Asked Friday if her views on the flag had changed, Haley was noncommittal. “We expect conversations to take place, but the people of South Carolina need to heal and our focus right now is bringing people together,” Haley said. “There will be policy discussions. ... Right now, I am not doing that to the people of my state.”

**Note:** “I do not blame Nikki Haley for the flag not being brought to half-staff,” Sellers said. “Nikki Haley had no authority to move it. It was an intentional act made by legislators. But the flag needs to come down. It really does.”

**Wall Street Journal:** Tragedy Thrusts Haley Into National Spotlight

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/tragedy-thrusts-haley-into-national-spotlight-1434756136>

Colleen McCain Nelson

The Charleston church massacre that left nine dead in South Carolina has propelled Gov. Nikki Haley onto a national stage and revived a debate over the Confederate battle flag that flies in front of her office at the state Capitol in Columbia.

**Associated Press:** Church victims' family face alleged attacker in court

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Tko8hDfy](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Tko8hDfy)

Jeffrey Collins

Felecia Sanders survived the attack on her Bible study group by pretending to be dead, but lost her son Tywanza. On Friday, she came face to face with the alleged shooter, as she had the night of the slaughter.

**Note:** South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said the state will “absolutely” want the death penalty.

**The State:** Confederate flag at capitol under fire after shootings

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article25048834.html#storylink=cpy>

The Charleston church shootings have thrown the spotlight back onto the Confederate battle flag on South Carolina’s State House grounds in Columbia. The battle flag has flown behind the Confederate Soldier Monument on the north side of the State House since a compromise by lawmakers removed it from atop the capitol dome in 2000.

**Note:** Gov. Nikki Haley told “CBS This Morning” it was too early to talk about whether the flag should come off the grounds. “My job is to heal the people of this state.”

**Post and Courier:** Prosecutor says it’s too early to talk death penalty, despite calls from governor

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150619/PC16/150619332>

Andrew Knapp, Melissa Boughton, Prentiss Findlay

Ninth Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson said Friday afternoon that it’s too early for discussions about the death penalty, despite calls from Gov. Nikki Haley for the accused gunman to face execution in the fatal shootings at Emanuel AME Church.

**Note:** “We will seek the death penalty,” Haley said outside the church Friday morning. “You will absolutely pay the price. This is pure hate.”

## Emanuel AME Church Shooting News:

**Island Packet:** Boyhood barber says Pinckney 'wanted to help his community'

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2015/06/19/3803021/boyhood-barber-says-pinckney-wanted.html>

Josh Mitelman

Ridgeland Barber Leroy Sneed remembers Clementa Pinckney as a "fine person" who "always wanted to help people" and who had great timing politically "Sen. Pinckney was always a bright kid in school," Sneed said Thursday at the shop he has operated 62 years and where he cut Pinckney's hair.

**The State:** Victims' families offer forgiveness, not condemnation, to suspect in Charleston church murders

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article25033732.html#storylink=cpy>

Bertram Rantin

One by one, the family members of slain Emanuel AME Church members faced their loved ones' suspected killer head on and rather than condemning him, they offered their forgiveness. As the relatives spoke out during 21-year-old Dylann Roof's initial bond hearing Friday, they expressed hope for his redemption and promised to pray for his soul through a tearful round of family statements.

**Post and Courier:** In an hour, a church changes forever

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150619/PC16/150619306>

Doug Pardue, Jennifer Berry Hawes

About 60 people wrap up Emanuel AME Church's usual quarterly conference, a time to welcome the district's presiding elder and tackle routine business matters. It's late and everyone's hungry. The Rev. Daniel Simmons, a 74-year-old retired minister, suggests postponing a regularly scheduled Bible study set to follow.

**Post and Courier:** NAACP president calls church shooting a hate crime, pledges support for investigation

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150619/PC16/150619320>

Adam Parker

NAACP President Cornell William Brooks on Friday imagined the scene in the basement of Emanuel AME Church, where "a hand of welcome" likely was extended to the mass shooting suspect on Wednesday, where the doors of the church remain open to strangers.

**New York Times:** Returning Home to Console, Lindsey Graham Joins the Mourning

[http://mobile.nytimes.com/2015/06/20/us/politics/returning-home-to-console-lindsey-graham-joins-the-mourning.html?\\_r=0&referrer](http://mobile.nytimes.com/2015/06/20/us/politics/returning-home-to-console-lindsey-graham-joins-the-mourning.html?_r=0&referrer)

Ashley Parker

Senator Lindsey Graham was in the passenger seat on Friday, preparing to make what would be the first of many difficult phone calls in the coming days. Mr. Graham, a South Carolina Republican and 2016 presidential hopeful, was running down a list, calling the families of the nine people who were killed Wednesday night at a historic black church.

**Associated Press:** Black churches targeted because of importance to community

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

Jess J. Holland

The latest attack came Wednesday in Charleston, South Carolina, when 21-year-old Dylann Storm Roof joined a prayer meeting inside historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church and, according to authorities, shot nine people dead, including the pastor, the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, and other ministers.

**Associated Press:** Man accused of church killings spoke of attacking college

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

Mitch Weiss, Michael Biesecker

A black drinking buddy of the white man accused of killing nine people at a Charleston church says the suspect told him a week earlier that he planned to shoot up a college campus in the city. The friend, Christon Scriven, told The Associated Press on Friday that he thought Dylann Roof's statements were just drunken bluster.

**Associated Press:** After Charleston shootings, gun curbs dormant in Congress

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Yc6dq8rE](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Yc6dq8rE)

Alan Fram

This week's slaughter of nine people in a South Carolina church left prospects that Congress will curb guns right where they've been for years - remote for now, according to lawmakers and activists on both sides of the issue. Conceding that congressional action was unlikely soon, President Barack Obama said lawmakers will tighten federal firearms restrictions when they believe the public is demanding it.

**The State:** Roof family expresses remorse as nation cries over Charleston massacre

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article25042537.html#storylink=cpy>

Sammy Fretwell, Sarah Ellis

Accused mass murderer Dylann Storm Roof is a child of disparate Columbia-area families who expressed deep sorrow Friday about the Charleston church massacre that left a nation wondering how anyone could commit such a crime. In a statement, the family said "words cannot express our shock, grief, and disbelief as to what happened that night. We are devastated and saddened by what occurred.

**Rock Hill Herald:** Charleston killer says blacks are taking over – what America does he live in?

[http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article25025617.](http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article25025617.html#storylink=cpy)

[html#storylink=cpy](http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article25025617.html#storylink=cpy)

Andrew Dys

The punk in Charleston – his sweatshirt covered with white power patches from countries that no longer exist because the weight of hatred of blacks killed them – got out of his car with the Confederate flag license plate and walked into the church that has given black people refuge for so long.

**Greenville News:** Judge sets \$1 million bond for shooting suspect

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2015/06/19/charleston-shooting-suspect-bond-hearing/28999055/>

Tim Smith

Family of some of the nine people killed at a historic black church in Charleston came face to face with the man charged in the rampage and some forgave him on Friday as grim details emerged from police affidavits filed in the case. "You took something really precious away from me," said the daughter of one of the victims, Ethel Lance. "I will never talk to her again, never hold her again, but I forgive you."

## Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

**Post and Courier:** Powerful message of forgiveness

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150620/PC1002/150629925>

Editorial

Citing unnamed law enforcement officers, CNN on Friday reported that the suspected killer of nine people in a Charleston church had confessed to the crime. And quoting a friend of Dylann Roof, the network reported that the goal was to ignite a race war. It's just more evidence about Dylann Roof's deluded world view.

## South Carolina News:

**Associated Press:** Reports: Mistrial in case of ex-South Carolina police chief

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=k01PZQqa](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=k01PZQqa)

A judge declared a mistrial Friday evening in the retrial of a white former South Carolina police chief who was charged with murder in the shooting death of an unarmed black man, media outlets reported. Judge Brian Gibbons ended trial Friday evening after a jury deliberated nearly seven hours without reaching a unanimous decision in the case of former Eutawville Police Chief Richard Combs, TV station WLTX19 ( <http://on.wltx.com/1J9fZEM> ) reported.

**The State:** Mistrial declared in police chief case

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article24988540.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

A Richland County jury deadlocked Friday night in the retrial of a former Eutawville police chief charged with murder in the 2011 death of an unarmed African-American man. Trial Judge Brian Gibbons declared a mistrial shortly after 8 p.m., some seven hours after the jury of 10 whites and two blacks began deliberating.

## Local News:

**Aiken Standard:** Budget 101: City of Aiken budget full of financial hopes, goals

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20150619/AIK0101/150609377/1004/budget-101-city-of-aiken-budget-full-of-financial-hopes-goals>

Maayan Schechter

The City of Aiken's roughly \$53 million 2015-16 budget has already been passed, but won't officially start until July 1. For months, Council members sat down with officials, tearing through the budget to save costs, cushion themselves with more revenue in their reserves and find additional money to fund projects that include expanded recreational opportunities and infrastructure improvements.

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