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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WIS: On Charleston Massacre anniversary, Gov. Nikki Haley reflects on lessons learned

<http://www.wistv.com/story/32246801/on-charleston-massacre-anniversary-gov-nikki-haley-reflects-on-lessons-learned>

Jeremy Turnage and Judi Gatson

For Gov. Nikki Haley, there isn't a day that goes by that she says she doesn't think about the nine men and women who walked into the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston for Bible study and didn't walk out. The event led to a nationwide spotlight on Charleston and South Carolina. Haley, the state's two-term governor, went from state executive to mourner-in-chief. "We were bruised and we were broken, but we were determined to build back up in a way that we were a better state after it," Haley said. The state could have ripped itself apart due to racial tensions that have never really gone away, but instead, according to Haley, the state came together in a way like never before. "I've heard some people say South Carolina hasn't changed, it's still the same state. Not in my book," Haley said. "You talk to anybody about Mother Emanuel and find out what they took from it, you talk to anybody around this county that saw South Carolina and ask them what they thought about it." Haley says she maintains contact with many of the family members forever changed on that hot June day in 2015. She says her focus remains on those families.

Emanuel AME Shooting Anniversary:

Post and Courier: Thousands honor lives of Emanuel AME shooting victims in emotional service

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160617/PC16/160619430>

Abigail Darlington, Deanna Pan and Paul Bowers

One by one, they called out the names of the dead: DePayne Middleton Doctor. Cynthia Graham Hurd. Susie Jackson. Ethel Lance. Clementa Pinckney. Tywanza Sanders. Daniel Simmons. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton. Myra Thompson. A year after the mass killing of nine worshippers at Emanuel AME Church, thousands flocked to the College of Charleston's TD Arena seeking comfort and closure from last summer's defining tragedy. The three-hour service Friday, led by former Emanuel interim pastor the Rev. Norvel Goff, drew more than 2,000 people — including several South Carolina politicians — filling half of the arena's seats, about a third less than officials expected. In his remarks, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott celebrated the strength of Emanuel's congregation, while Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg, state Sen. Marlon Kimpson and an aide from U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn's office used their time at the podium to advocate for gun reform.

Note: In an emotionally riveting speech, Gov. Nikki Haley recounted the night last summer when she learned of a mass shooting in which a young white supremacist gunned down Emanuel's pastor and eight of his parishioners. Haley attended each of the nine victims' funerals and now keeps all of the funeral programs in a drawer in her bedroom. As she spoke, she held each program in her hands. And she said the shooting's three adult survivors — Polly Sheppard, Felicia Sanders and Jennifer Pinckney, who did not attend the service — taught her true courage. "I will always talk about these people who changed my life," Haley said, "and I will always be grateful."

New Yorker: The Hate That Remains, A Year After Charleston

<http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-hate-that-remains-a-year-after-charleston>

Jelani Cobb

In the days following the massacre, Dylann Roof and the ideology of hate that inspired him were denounced

from every corner of American society. Governor Nikki Haley announced the removal of the Confederate flag from the grounds of the State Capitol. Jenny Horne, a Republican state representative and a descendant of Jefferson Davis, delivered an indictment of the flag as a “symbol of hate,” in a speech that pushed her peers to vote in favor of removal. A week after the shootings, amid the paralyzing heat of summer in Charleston, President Obama delivered a eulogy for Clementa Pinckney, the pastor of Emanuel A.M.E., who died in the attack on that sanctuary. In a masterstroke of sympathetic understanding, Obama led all those gathered at the College of Charleston in the hymn “Amazing Grace.” On July 10, 2015, the Confederate flag was removed from the State Capitol’s grounds. We understand Charleston, rightly, as part of the cascade of violence that defines the times we live in—nine more lives offered as tribute before a sacred ideal of the well-regulated militia.

New York Times: At Memorial for Charleston Shooting, a Call for ‘Meaningful Action’ on Guns

http://mobile.nytimes.com/2016/06/18/us/at-memorial-for-charleston-shooting-a-call-for-meaningful-action-on-guns.html?_r=0&referrer=https://www.google.com/

Michael Schwartz and Chris Dixon

A year after nine members of a historic black church were killed here, politicians and pastors joined with congregations from around the region on Friday to mark the occasion with prayers, tambourines and clapping hands, but also with impassioned, almost desperate calls for action in the face of unceasing gun violence. A memorial service at the TD Arena on Friday morning mourned the victims and evoked the glory of God dozens of times to shouts of “Amen” from the crowd. But it was the demand for greater restrictions on the nation’s guns that drew the loudest applause from the mostly black audience. “Words alone, no matter how sincere or well intended, cannot be substituted for sustained and meaningful action,” Mayor John Tecklenburg said at the event. “Can’t we at least remove the availability of assault weapons from those who have broken the law? Those who have mental issues? Can’t we at least complete reasonable background checks?”

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg leaders reflect on Charleston tragedy

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160617/articles/160619690>

Zach Fox

South Carolinians of all races, religions and political affiliations united behind the families of the victims. The grace and resilience the families showed spread to every corner of the state. In Spartanburg, local officials believe the spirit of South Carolina shone brightest in what was perhaps its darkest hour...

Orlando Shooting News:

Associated Press: Man hit in back in Orlando shooting played dead to survive

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6970f79e401a4a5e85c2f0809c74118f>

Jason Dearen

elipe Marrero wakes up in his hospital bed at night still thinking he smells gunpowder, nearly a week after the shooting rampage at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando. It's just one of the ways the 30-year-old has suffered after being shot four times in his back and left arm during the attack last Sunday morning that left 49 victims dead and more than 50 wounded. The gunman, 29-year-old Omar Mateen, also was killed in a firefight with police. "It's the same smell that was in the club that night," Merrero said in an interview Friday from his hospital bed at Orlando Regional Medical Center. Marrero lifted the edge of a couch near where he was lying and put his head underneath it. "I covered myself, and laid on the ground for at least 30 minutes not trying to make any sudden movements," he said. "I was just trying to play dead."

Savannah River Site/MOX News:

Aiken Standard: Energy Department accepting public comments on ash cleanup project at SRS

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160616/AIK0101/160619511>

Thomas Gardiner

Public comments and suggestions are currently being accepted by the U.S. Department of Energy Savannah River Site, or SRS, for a proposed project aimed at shoring up an old coal ash basin. The site used coal to

provide site electricity in the past, and the basins are full of by-products from those processes. The site now relies heavily on energy generated from the Ameresco biomass facility. The proposal includes three courses of action with one highlighted as the Energy Department's preferred course. The bulletin includes a so-called no-action option that lays out consequences of not moving forward with the project.

General Assembly News:

Palmetto Business Daily: Legislative session ends with 100 percent approval of Charleston Metro Chamber priorities

<http://palmettobusinessdaily.com/stories/510899489-legislative-session-ends-with-100-percent-approval-of-charleston-metro-chamber-priorities>

At the end of the 2015-16 legislative session, which happened at 5 p.m. on June 2, all of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce's legislative priorities were successful. "Last week, the roads bill dealing with South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) restructuring and giving SCDOT an additional \$200 million in recurring revenue that will be bonded by the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank (STIB) was signed into law by Gov. (Nikki) Haley," chamber officials stated. "Over the next 10 years this legislation, combined with the current funding for SCDOT, will result in a total \$4.2 billion for infrastructure improvements throughout the state. Though not a long-term funding plan, this is a huge shot in the arm for our crumbling infrastructure and gives the legislature time to develop a long-term revenue stream for SCDOT." "This is a perfect opportunity to thank our delegation for all of their hard work addressing the priorities of our region," the chamber stated.

SC Political News:

Morning News: Congressman Rice critical of Obama at Florence meet-and-greet

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_a4a83632-34ce-11e6-851b-37417478f388.html

Joshua Lloyd

Tom Rice, the freshman representative for South Carolina's 7th congressional district, was in Florence on Friday afternoon for a meet-and-greet and took some time to criticize President Barack Obama on overregulation. Rice told Florentines gathered at Wholly Smokin' restaurant in downtown Florence that the Obama administration has consistently gone over Congress to implement regulations that hurt America's working and entrepreneurial classes. "Over six years President Obama has passed more regulations than any president in the last 40 years and most of those have been on the financial industry," he said. "Since 2010 we haven't had 20 banks form in the whole country. Small banks fund small businesses—that's how they get their starting capital. Since 2010 more small businesses have closed every year than have opened. That's the first time that's happened since the Depression."

SC Elections:

The State: Technical glitches delay recount in 2nd District Democratic primary

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article84533727.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Librarian Arik Bjorn and semi-retired hardware store owner Phil Black must wait until Saturday to learn which of them will face veteran U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-Springdale, in the Nov. 8 general election. Technical glitches and missing data from polling machines in Richland County delayed a recount of votes from the 2nd District Democratic primary on Friday. The S.C. Election Commission could not verify votes from Richland County on Friday night. The commission plans to certify the final results of the recount Saturday, spokesman Chris Whitmire said.

Opinion/Editorial:

Morning News: EDITORIAL: Ethics reform not worthy of celebration

http://www.scnow.com/opinion/editorials/article_a33f8be0-34df-11e6-be35-33ad7d749431.html

Thumbs down to the S.C. General Assembly for passing ethics reform bills this week that fell far short of what we want and need. The headlines looked and sounded good: "Legislators adopt ethics bills." Action late Wednesday surprisingly seemed to please Gov. Nikki Haley: "Tonight, after four years of hard work, the people of South Carolina have a real reason to celebrate," she said in a statement. "Income disclosure and independent investigations will help restore the people's trust in state government by making it more accountable to those it serves. We thank the House and Senate for keeping their promise and helping us bring this home." But legislators only have to disclose the private sources of income, not the amounts. If an independent investigation determines there is probable cause for a complaint, the matter would be sent back to House and Senate ethics committees to determine guilt and any penalty. "This is the baby steps toward what people are asking for, and that is transparency," Sen. Brad Hutto, an Orangeburg Democrat, told The Greenville News. We agree completely.

South Carolina News:

WLTX: SCSU Community Excited for Future

<http://www.wltx.com/mb/news/scsu-community-excited-for-future/247818006>

Janae Frazier

The South Carolina State University community is excited that the school has been taken off probation and will keep their accreditation. "From being on life support to being in intensive care, critical care, and now being released from the hospital and you've got a good bill of health and now you've got a recuperate and improve," Interim President Dr. W. Franklin Evans said. "It affords us the opportunity to keep doing things right, and to show that South Carolina State University is going to be even stronger." The loss of accreditation would have meant students would no longer be eligible for federal financial aid. Almost 90 percent of students have federal financial aid. The loss of accreditation would have led to the school's close. Evans said this is a fresh start after years of controversy, financial issues and being on probation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges for two years.

WSPA: SC unemployment rate drops, record number of people have jobs

<http://wspa.com/2016/06/17/sc-unemployment-rate-drops-record-number-of-people-have-jobs/>

Fred Cunningham

A record number of people in South Carolina are working according to new numbers released Friday. The Department of Employment and Workforce reports the jobless rate in the state in May was 5.6 percent with nearly 3,000 more people finding a job. That dropped the unemployment rate a couple of tenths of a point from the 5.8 percent figure in April. A decrease in the labor force contributed to that figure according to SCDEW. Nationally, May's unemployment rate fell from five percent to 4.7 percent as some people left the labor force. The agency reports close to 2.2 million people have jobs now in South Carolina.

Note: "I continue to be encouraged to see the commitment businesses are making to South Carolina. They trust that we can provide them with skilled workers as they create jobs by expanding or opening new facilities in the state," said Cheryl Stanton, executive director of the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce in a written statement.

Associated Press: Groups holding rally in SC to speak out against violence

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2EENxvAV

SC State Wire

Community and advocacy groups are gathering at the Statehouse this weekend to speak out on ways to curb violence. A "Stop the Violence" rally is being held Saturday. Progress South Executive Director Michael Wukela says organizers are calling on state lawmakers to ban assault weapons in South Carolina and pass a state hate crimes statute. Wukela says the group also wants universal background checks on gun purchases. The rally starts at 10 a.m. and is open to the public. Participants are expected from a variety of groups, including the National Association of Social Workers.

Local News:

The State: Scattered hail, winds, power outages strike Columbia as thunderstorm roars through

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article84403287.html>

Clif Leblanc

The power and trees went down in the metropolitan area Friday afternoon as a spring thunderstorm tore through the capital city with hail and winds strong enough to leave some 35,000 customers without electricity. Starting about 1:30 p.m., a fast-moving front ahead of a weekend cool down scattered hail and left homes damaged and peppered street with debris, according to the National Weather Service and other authorities. Some Columbia neighborhoods were without power for as much as four hours while sporadic outages extended to sundown. By the time the storm reached the South Carolina coast later in the day, more than 100,000 customers were without electricity.

The State: Sea turtles suffer as seawalls go up, legal notice says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article84421727.html>

Sammy Fretwell

Rare sea turtles are being blocked from nesting on South Carolina beaches by a new type of seawall that was touted as a way to protect oceanfront buildings from erosion without hurting wildlife, say some coastal landowners and environmental groups. The S.C. Sierra Club and the S.C. Wildlife Federation sent a notice to federal and state authorities this week threatening to sue if government agencies don't move to protect sea turtles from the hard plastic seawalls, referred to as wave dissipation devices. The notice says the government must resolve violations of the federal Endangered Species Act within 60 days or the environmental groups will file suit against the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The suit would seek to ban future wave dissipation walls and require existing walls to be taken down.

Post and Courier: SCE&G expects to work through night to restore power to thousands in Charleston area

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160617/PC16/160619497>

Thad Moore

Severe thunderstorms left thousands across the Lowcountry without power Friday night after earlier unleashing strong winds and hail on the region. About 1,300 power outages, mostly in Charleston County, were reported in the tri-county area at 10:30 p.m. after peaking closer to 25,000, according to South Carolina Electric & Gas. SCE&G spokeswoman Kim Asbill said the power company doesn't yet know when electricity will be restored, but the utility expects to have crews working through the night. Across South Carolina, the storms caused more than 100,000 power outages after they tore across the state.

Associated Press: Military boosters start 1 year celebration of Fort Jackson

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

SC State Wire

Military boosters in South Carolina are kicking off a yearlong celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Army training installation at Fort Jackson. The celebration begins Saturday at 5 p.m. at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center with the annual Army Birthday Ball. Community and military leaders are using the formal dress event to begin their celebration. Camp Jackson was founded to train Army units to enter World War I. Events are scheduled every month over the coming year, leading up to the centennial during the first week of June 2017.

Independent Mail: Record high 86,091 employed in Anderson County

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/local/record-high-86091-employed-in-anderson-county--3579d6a3-8f61-44bb-e053-0100007f8ab8-383456121.html>

Abe Hardesty

Anderson County continued to buck the national employment trend in May, according to the latest figures released by the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce. The number of people employed in Anderson County rose to a record high 86,091 in May, 258 more than in April and 2,178 more than in May 2015. As a result, the county's unemployment rate for May was 4.4 percent, down from 4.7 a month earlier and down from 5.6 in May 2015. "Word of these numbers helps to cap off a great week of economic development news in Anderson County," County Council Chairman Tommy Dunn said in a news release.

"Coming on the heels of the grand opening of the Coca-Cola distribution facility and the announcement of Engineered Plastic Components bringing 43 jobs and \$5.3 million in investment, I can't help but be optimistic about our prospects in the months ahead."

Island Packet: A school board member called his peer a 'hot chick,' but promises he's not sexist

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article84463377.html>

Rebecca Lurye

Beaufort County school board member Paul Roth doesn't have an opponent yet for his re-election bid in November. Friday, he showed he doesn't have much respect for his peers on the board, either. In a wide-ranging interview that began as a question on the dearth of candidates challenging three incumbents up for re-election, Roth denigrated his colleagues' experience, called some on the board "screw ups" and implied another was elected in part because she was a "hot chick." When asked Friday why Roth thought there were no challengers yet in the three incumbents' races — his, Earl Campbell's and JoAnn Orischak's, the Okatie representative answered by detailing the qualities of each person. Campbell, he said, is intelligent and well-respected in District 1's "African community," in Gray's Hill and Lobeco. As for himself, Roth repeated that he has a long history of board service.

National News:

Associated Press: Trump verbal volleys leave jarred GOP bracing for convention

<http://bigstory.ap.org/397fe7246b42421db253904874e5a2e7>

Alan Farm

If Donald Trump's Republican Party were a family and its national convention a reunion, a therapist might say there are issues to resolve. For all his harangues, the blustery billionaire remains on track to become the party's nominee at its Cleveland gathering next month. Yet his incendiary comments following the Orlando massacre have rattled the GOP, and pockets of apprehension and outright defiance are, if anything, growing. More congressional Republicans are not endorsing Trump and planning to skip the convention. Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., one of Trump's top House backers, says his support among lawmakers "has stalled." And there's a longshot movement among conservative delegates and operatives — including supporters of Trump's vanquished rival, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz — to change party rules so the convention can pick a different nominee.

World News:

Associated Press: Belgian authorities arrest 12 in major anti-terror raid

<http://bigstory.ap.org/effb383881494ad498c6c2e68828ce0f>

Raf Casert

Belgian authorities have raided dozens of homes and arrested 12 suspects in a major anti-terror investigation which they said required "immediate intervention," fearing an attack could have been close. Across Belgium parties were being planned Saturday to watch live broadcasts of the country's soccer team playing Ireland at the European Championships in neighboring France and some media said such events could have been the targets. Prime Minister Charles Michel said the nation would remain "extremely vigilant, hour by hour," but that the terror level across the nation would remain at the second-highest level, meaning a threat of an attack "is possible and likely." Belgium has been living under such a threat level since the Nov. 22 attacks on the Brussels subway and airport which killed 32.

Associated Press: Accused killer of UK lawmaker makes defiant court statement

<http://bigstory.ap.org/00bf24ec84f14186a5abcd89db12982d>

Gregory Katz and Shawn Pogatchnik

The man accused of murdering British lawmaker Jo Cox gave his name as "Death to traitors, freedom for Britain" in court Saturday, following the killing that has brought campaigning ahead of the country's EU referendum to a standstill. Thomas Mair, 52, made his defiant statement as he made his first appearance in Westminster Magistrates' Court in London after being charged overnight with the murder of the popular

Labour Party lawmaker. Mair refused to give his correct name and did not answer when asked for his address and date of birth. Labour Party lawmaker Cox, 41, was shot and stabbed to death Thursday after getting out of her car in the town of Birstall in her home constituency.

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