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Portland Reacts to Killings

Faith community, police respond to Charleston shooting

By Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News

Faith, hope, fear, grief, rage and fellowship all rose to the surface last Thursday at the Bethel AME Church.

About 300 people came together Thursday at the church for a vigil to honor victims of last week's racially-motivated shooting at the Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Dr. LeRoy Haynes of the Allen Temple and the Albina Ministerial Alliance told the congregation the shooting was a "crime against humanity."

"We're here because a young, white racist, possibly with mental issues, decided to deliberately and intentionally strike a blow for white supremacy," Haynes told the crowd. "We're here to let the world know that God's church cannot be stopped by terrorism."

Within hours after the Wednesday-night killings, Charleston police were describing the crime — which claimed nine lives, including that of pastor and state Sen. Clementa Pinckney — as a hate crime.

Civil rights activists across the country have called the shooting a terrorist act. They have noted that writings attributed to shooter Dylann Roof, a 21-year-old white man arrested Thursday morning in connection with the shooting, say he was inspired by organized far-right groups. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, however, has declined to characterize the crime as terrorism.

Rev. W.J. Mark Knutson of the Augustana Lutheran Church in Northeast Portland said the Charleston shooting was the violation of a sanctuary. Roof had participated in a Bible-study activity before opening fire on the congregants.

"There is a disease in this nation called racism," Knutson said in reference to speculation that Roof may be mentally ill. He also said the notion that racism will die out with the older generation is false: "You have to teach every generation." Churches, synagogues and mosques must come together to stand for justice and pray for a new day, he

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VIGIL



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Seattle First A.M.E. youth coordinator Greg Banks sings at a vigil held last Thursday evening for victims of the shooting at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C.

S.C. Grieves Nine Shot in Church

Meanwhile, Alabama takes Confederate battle flags down

Seanna Adcox, Jeffrey Collins, and Jonathan Drew
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — The Confederate battle flag was still flying high atop a 30-foot pole outside the South Carolina Statehouse on Wednesday as lawmakers prepared to honor their beloved black colleague with a viewing in the Rotunda.

Elsewhere around the nation, leaders were already demoting the historic but divisive symbol. By the order of Alabama Gov.

Robert Bentley on Wednesday, four Confederate banners were being taken down from a large monument to secessionist soldiers outside that state's capitol.

No Alabama law prohibits the removal of the flags by executive order, said a Bentley spokeswoman who called the flags "a distraction."

The slaying of state Sen. Clementa Pinckney and eight other black people who welcomed a gunman into their Bible study session a week ago has suddenly become a catalyst for

re-examining the meaning of Civil War symbols nationwide.

But in South Carolina, making any changes to "heritage" symbols requires a two-thirds supermajority of both houses of the state legislature, and while lawmakers voted overwhelmingly for a debate later this summer, few wanted to risk ugly words during a week of funerals for those killed in the church attack.

Brought to the capitol in a horse-drawn carriage, Pinckney's open coffin was being put on display under the dome

where he served the state for nearly 20 years. The 41-year-old lead pastor of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church spent a lot of time in the second-floor lobby.

He started his Statehouse career as a page. He was the youngest member elected to the House in 1997 and became a senator in 2001.

A large, black drape has been put over the lobby's big window, blocking the view of the Confederate flag outside. Mourners

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Recreational Pot to Become Legal July 1

State launches campaign to clarify details of Measure 91

By Arashi Young
Of The Skanner News

After almost 30 years of campaigning to legalize marijuana in Oregon, pot will finally be legal within days.

On July 1, Oregon will become the third state in the U.S. to allow for the possession and use of recreational marijuana as Measure 91, passed last fall, takes effect state-

wide.

But before anyone breaks out the bong, here is what you need to know:

Possession and use of marijuana is only legal for those 21 years old and over.

If you are under 21 years old, possession is illegal.

Public use of marijuana is still illegal.

The law allows for use at home or on private property.

People may possess up to eight ounces of usable marijuana in their home and up to one ounce outside the home.

The law allows people to grow 4 plants per household -- not 4 plants per person in each household.

You cannot grow marijuana within 1,000 feet of a school.

You cannot take marijuana across state

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