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**Subject:** Afternoon Clips – Thursday, May 12, 2016

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## Afternoon Clips – Thursday, May 12, 2016

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

**Herald-Journal:** Haley talks education, job training at Leadership Spartanburg graduation

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160512/articles/160519875>

Chris Lavender

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley emphasized the need to improve the quality of education in rural districts statewide while at the Spartanburg Country Club on Thursday. Haley was the keynote speaker at the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Spartanburg graduation ceremony. The two-term Republican governor discussed education, infrastructure, job training and tourism during her visit. "Every child deserves a good education regardless of where they come from," Haley said.

**Associated Press:** Graham, who called Trump a 'nut job,' softens his view

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=LjRF2Pwr](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=LjRF2Pwr)

Richard Lardner

The Republican senator who called Donald Trump a "nut job" and a "loser as a person" softened his stance on Thursday as the GOP sought to set aside their differences and unify the party. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, one of Trump's harshest critics, told reporters that he spoke with Trump by telephone Wednesday, a 15-minute conversation in which they discussed national security, the threat of Islamic State militants and last year's international nuclear deal with Iran. Graham described the billionaire candidate as funny, cordial and said he asked insightful questions.

**Berkley Observer:** Viva Holdings Group, Inc. Launching Operations In Berkeley County

<http://www.berkeleyobserver.com/2016/05/12/viva-holdings-group-inc-launching-operations-berkeley-county/>

Viva Holdings Group, Inc., an international leader in the worldwide rubber and plastic recycling industries, is launching a new operation in Berkeley County. "Viva is proud to build in St. Stephen, S. C. an integrated manufacturing plant using our state's recycled rubber and plastics. Our plant expects to employ up to 200 people, creating products that will be sold in the U.S. and exported to China," stated Viva Holdings Group, Inc. CEO Marty Sergei.

**Note:** "We couldn't be more excited to congratulate Viva for its decision to build a new facility in Berkeley County. This \$28 million investment, and the 200 new jobs it means for Berkeley County, is a huge win for everyone involved, and we look forward to watching this partnership grow for many years to come," stated Governor Nikki Haley.

**Times and Democrat:** Southeast Frozen Foods expanding Calhoun County operations

[http://thetandd.com/news/local/southeast-frozen-foods-expanding-calhoun-county-operations/article\\_b0878fb8-1852-11e6-bc56-4b6733d3ace4.html](http://thetandd.com/news/local/southeast-frozen-foods-expanding-calhoun-county-operations/article_b0878fb8-1852-11e6-bc56-4b6733d3ace4.html)

Southeast Frozen Foods, a company which provides retail distribution to grocery stores and cold storage for processors, manufacturers and distributors, is expanding its operations in Calhoun County. This new expansion announced Thursday will result

**Note:** "Southeast Frozen Foods' commitment to both the local community in Gaston and our state as a whole is something we are extremely proud of. This investment of \$6 million, and the 30 new jobs it means for Calhoun County, is a huge win for Team South Carolina, and we congratulate Southeast Frozen Foods on their continued success there," Gov. Nikki Haley said.

## General Assembly News:

**Associated Press:** Expanding gun background checks to get hearing this summer

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kMpnuHw1](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kMpnuHw1)

Seanna Adcox

The Senate's judiciary chairman is pledging to hold a hearing this summer on legislation extending the allowed time for background checks on gun sales. Sen. Larry Martin's promise Thursday followed a rally outside the Statehouse against gun violence. More than 100 people called on legislators to pass laws that prevent criminals from getting guns. They held on to ribbons and posters to form a link and attempted to circle the Statehouse.

**Post and Courier:** Gun reformers say 'enough is enough' at Statehouse rally

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160512/PC1603/160519795>

Gavin Jackson and Maya T. Prabhu

More than 100 people gathered around the South Carolina Statehouse on Thursday to push lawmakers to pass reforms they say would save lives. Melody Geddis McFadden of Summerville shared her story at the Hands Around the Statehouse Rally. McFadden said lawmakers have failed to act on the deaths of her niece or the death of her friend Clementa Pinckney, a state senator and pastor who was shot and killed along with eight others at Emanuel AME Church in June. McFadden's niece, 22-year-old Sandy Geddis Barnwell, was one of three who were gunned down during 2014 black bike week in Myrtle Beach.

**The State:** Tighten background check laws, rally goers urge

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article77205607.html>

Cassie Cope

Advocates for tighter gun laws held ribbons and posters linking together as the names of S.C. victims of gun violence were read aloud across the State House grounds on Thursday. Those attendants want to close the "Charleston loophole" that some say helped lead to the slaying of nine Charleston church members, gunned down during a Bible study last year. Accused shooter Dylan Roof, charged with murder in the slayings, was able to buy a gun even though a background check had not been completed.

**The State:** State House rally to push for tighter background checks on guns

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article77012582.html>

Cassie Cope

Advocates of tighter background checks before gun purchases will converge on the State House Thursday, urging lawmakers to close the so-called "Charleston loophole." That loophole helped lead to the slaying of nine Charleston church members, gunned down during a Bible study last year, advocates of tighter gun-control laws say. Accused shooter Dylan Roof, charged with murder in the slayings, was able to buy a gun even though a background check had not been completed.

**Greenville News:** Personhood bill appears dead for year

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/05/12/personhood-bill-appears-dead-year/84280046/>

Tim Smith

A bill that would effectively outlaw abortion if enacted appears dead for the year after supporters could not gain enough votes in the Senate to set it for debate. The so-called personhood legislation would grant legal rights to the unborn beginning at conception. Supporters tried to get the bill set for debate Wednesday, a move that required two-thirds approval of the Senate, but it fell short, 24-16.

### **Independent Mail:** Sides spar over Pollution Control Act changes

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/sides-spar-over-pollution-control-act-changes-32987537-4299-0a5f-e053-0100007f4dce-379066581.html>

Mike Eads

A South Carolina Senate bill passed last year to amend the state's Pollution Control Act has suddenly gotten attention from the House leadership before this year's legislative session winds down. State Rep. Anne Thayer (R-Anderson) said GOP leadership want to get S.B. 229 to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk this session. The bill would amend the aforementioned act to keep private individuals or groups from suing corporate polluters. "It seems like it's a priority for the Speaker," said Thayer, referring to House Speaker Jay Lucas (R-Hartsville).

### **Walter Scott Case:**

#### **The State:** Ex-North Charleston officer's indictment: Justice or scapegoating?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article76938042.html>

John Monk

The federal indictment of an ex-North Charleston police officer either sends a signal that the nation has had enough or that he is a scapegoat for all white-on-black police shootings, lawyers said Wednesday. "This has brought us one step closer to justice," said Rep. Justin Bamberg, D-Bamberg, an attorney who represents the family of Walter Scott, who was shot to death while fleeing from then-officer Michael Slager in April 2015 in a vacant lot. But Andy Savage and Shaun Kent, the two attorneys for Slager, released a statement in which they suggested that their client was being singled out by federal prosecutors who wished to make an example of him.

### **SC Agency News:**

#### **WSPA:** 4 DJJ camp employees charged after escape, beating

<http://wspa.com/2016/05/12/4-employees-charged-after-escape-beating-at-djj-camp/>

Scottie Kay Auton

4 employees are charged after a child escaped and was beaten at Camp White Pines, a DJJ facility in Union County. In early April, a teen escaped Camp White Pines in Union County and ran across the street to a neighbor's yard. An incident report says that other teens from the camp punched and beat the teen before dragging him back into the camp. Curtis Hill, Director of Operations at Camp White Pines, is charged with Unlawful Neglect of a Child after choking and throwing the 15-year-old on the floor after they were brought back to the camp, according to warrants.

### **SC Political News:**

#### **Associated Press:** The Latest: Graham says Trump asked good questions on call

<http://bigstory.ap.org/773211d1ffba41c5a45574db0b093ae0>

The Republican senator who called Donald Trump a "nut job" and a "loser" is softening his stance as the GOP seeks to unify. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, one of Trump's harshest critics, told reporters that he spoke with Trump by telephone Wednesday. He described the billionaire candidate as funny, cordial and said he asked insightful questions about national security. "He's got a great sense of humor," Graham said. "He's from New York. He obviously can take a punch." Graham, who waged an unsuccessful bid for his party's White House nomination, said he doesn't retract anything he said during the heat of the campaign and he still won't endorse Trump.

#### **Associated Press:** Graham, who called Trump a 'nut job,' softens his view

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=LjRF2Pwr](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=LjRF2Pwr)

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The Republican senator who called Donald Trump a "nut job" and a "loser as a person" softened his stance on Thursday as the GOP sought to set aside their differences and unify the party. Lindsey

Graham of South Carolina, one of Trump's harshest critics, told reporters that he spoke with Trump by telephone Wednesday, a 15-minute conversation in which they discussed national security, the threat of Islamic State militants and last year's international nuclear deal with Iran. Graham described the billionaire candidate as funny, cordial and said he asked insightful questions.

**The State:** SC's Graham, Trump have 'cordial' phone conversation

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article77248162.html>

Jamie Self

The ice between Donald Trump and U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham melted briefly Wednesday. The onetime GOP presidential primary foes – whose public attacks on each other continued last week – talked for about 15 minutes, Graham's office said. Graham said the conversation — “cordial” and “pleasant” — focused on national security. The Seneca Republican said he congratulated Trump on securing the Republican nomination, adding it was “a wise move on his part” to reach out to others in the GOP for advice.

**Post and Courier:** Lindsey Graham describes 'reassuring' phone call with Donald Trump

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160512/PC1603/160519793>

Emma Dumain

After months of trading barbs in interviews, speeches and social media, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham and Donald Trump have actually spoken to each other directly. The South Carolina Republican told reporters Thursday he and the presumptive GOP presidential nominee had a 15 to 20 minute phone conversation on Wednesday, which focused largely on national security concerns. Graham described it as a “very good talk,” but said multiple times he still had no plans to vote for Trump in the November election. “I told him I'm gonna stay right I'm at in terms of the presidential race,” Graham said, “but I appreciated the phone call.”

**Greenville News:** Graham takes a different tune on Trump

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/05/12/graham-tweets-about-cordial-call-with-trump/84290422/>

Elizabeth Sanders

Lindsey Graham appears to have changed his tune on Donald Trump. The Senator, who's been outspoken against Trump in recent months, posted tweets about a cordial phone call between the two men. In a statement to news media, Graham said he couldn't in good conscience support Trump "because I do not believe he is a reliable Republican conservative, nor has he displayed the judgment and temperament to serve as commander in chief."

**Post and Courier:** S.C. conservatives put their uncertainties aside about Trump, prepare to meet with him

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160511/PC1603/160519835>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Reps. Mark Sanford, Mick Mulvaney and Jeff Duncan didn't endorse Donald Trump in the height of primary season, and none are particularly sure how they feel about him. But the three conservative South Carolina Republicans could soon find themselves in close quarters with the presumptive Republican presidential nominee. The lawmakers are members of the House Freedom Caucus, the 40-member contingent established last year to push party leadership farther to the right. Having successfully driven out former House Speaker John Boehner and credited with halting momentum on a variety of bills that didn't pass conservative muster, the HFC is now seeking to assert its influence in the presidential campaign by requesting a meeting with Trump.

**SC Elections:**

**Morning News:** SC primary voter registration deadlines approaching

[http://www.scnow.com/news/election\\_2016/article\\_cd178b76-1864-11e6-94e7-ffe566a065cb.html](http://www.scnow.com/news/election_2016/article_cd178b76-1864-11e6-94e7-ffe566a065cb.html)

Joshua Lloyd

If you want to vote in any of the Pee Dee's June 14 primaries you have until this Saturday to register for that election. Since winners of many of the primaries in the Pee Dee will not face cross-party opposition in the November general election, June's primary will be a decisive vote for those seats. State law requires voter registration one month before the election in which you want to cast a vote.

**The Herald:** Deadline this week to register to vote in June primary

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/politics-government/election/local-election/article77017477.html>

Bristow Marchant

New voters have until Saturday to register for June's primary election – or Friday, for those who plan to register in person. Elections offices in York, Chester and Lancaster counties can take registration up until close of business on Friday. After that, it will be too late for new voters to register in person, or existing voters to change their address, for the June 14 Democratic and Republican primaries. But Saturday – 30 days before election day – is the legal deadline to register, and residents still will have a couple of options to register then.

### **Opinion/Editorial:**

**Sun News:** Why? remains big question in Horry police chief's early retirement

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/opinion/editorials/article77225397.html>

The Editorial Board

Horry County taxpayers don't know much more about the unexpected early retirement of the police chief than we did two weeks ago. Questions remain as to why? From information released last week, under a Freedom of Information Act request, we know Horry County is paying \$60,000-plus to the South Carolina Retirement System to make Sandra Rhodes eligible for retirement. Rhodes worked in the county police department for more than 23 years, rising to the top position four years ago. Her retirement announcement in late April was unexpected, and she alluded to looking forward to other employment although she was not specific about that being in law enforcement.

### **South Carolina News:**

**Washington Post:** The South's Confederate monument problem is not going away

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/the-souths-confederate-monument-problem-is-not-going-away/2016/05/08/b0258e4a-05af-11e6-a12f-ea5aed7958dc\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/the-souths-confederate-monument-problem-is-not-going-away/2016/05/08/b0258e4a-05af-11e6-a12f-ea5aed7958dc_story.html)

Monica Hesse

In the past year, debates such as this have bubbled in town meetings across the country. Mostly, discussions are related to Civil War monuments — in Louisiana, Maryland, Virginia and Texas — following the 2015 mass shooting at a historically black church in Charleston, S.C. But sometimes the discussion is broader: Last fall a cohort of Princeton students lobbied the administration to remove likenesses of Woodrow Wilson from the school's campus because of his segregationist beliefs. And last month, Andrew Jackson was toppled by Harriet Tubman off the front of the \$20 bill; supporters of the swap cited, among other reasons, Jackson's wretched treatment of American Indians. The problem is not going away. America has a lot of statues.

### **Local News:**

**Island Packet:** Parris Island commander Terry Williams relinquishing role in June

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/bg-military/article77155082.html>

Stephen Fastenau

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island's commander will step down in June, according to invitations to the ceremony delivered by email this week. Brig. Gen. Terry Williams had been in command of Parris Island and the Eastern Recruiting Region since June 2014. He will be replaced by

Brig. Gen. Austin Renforth, the invitation said. The ceremony will be at 2 p.m. June 10 at Parris Island's All Weather Training Facility. The change of command was planned and not the result of recent incidents at the depot, spokesman Capt. Gregory Carroll said Thursday. Commanders typically serve about two years, he said.

**Associated Press:** Toddler dies after choking at Greenville day care

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dvv54HZS](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dvv54HZS)

SC State Wire

Authorities are investigating after a 1-year-old child apparently choked to death while eating lunch at a day care center in Greenville. Coroner Parks Evans tells local media outlets that Sydney Ryan Alongio of Greenville was reported not breathing shortly after 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Creative Kids Child Development Center. The child was pronounced dead at a hospital about an hour later.

**Greenville News:** Coroner: Greenville toddler choked while eating

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/05/11/greenville-county-sheriffs-office-investigates-1-year-olds-death/84222306/>

Romando Dixson

A 1-year-old girl died Wednesday morning after she choked while eating lunch, the Greenville County Coroner's Office said. Deputies and EMS responded to Creative Kids Child Development Center on Sevier Street after receiving a call that a 1-year-old was not breathing about 11:08 a.m. Wednesday, Master Deputy Pinciario said. EMS transported the child to the hospital and the 1-year-old was pronounced dead at 11:58 a.m. Wednesday, Coroner Parks Evans said.

**The Herald:** Northwestern asst. principal now accused of sex crimes with 2nd student

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/crime/article77195602.html>

Jennifer Becknell

The Northwestern High School assistant principal accused last month of sexual misconduct with a student faces new charges that he sent nude pictures and videos of himself to two female students, Rock Hill police said. Kenneth Andrew Williams, 30, turned himself in to police Thursday on six more charges – some of them related to a second victim, who was 16 and a Northwestern student at the time of the alleged crimes, police said. During a hearing two hours after his arrest, Municipal Judge Ray Long set Williams' total bond at \$1.2 million – \$200,000 for each charge.

**The State:** Prosecutor, public defender argue legality of ankle monitor in Richland courtroom

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article77189332.html>

John Monk

The manager of an ankle monitoring firm that does GPS tracking of defendants released on bond in Richland County testified in hearing Thursday into the legality of the 2-year-old monitoring program. "The defendants have to pay the fees," testified Emily Burn. Attorneys who represent low-income defendants in Richland County say the price of the monitors, \$259 per month, forces poor people to stay in jail longer because they can't afford the program.

**Sun News:** Media groups support taking The Sun News' lawsuit to the S.C. Supreme Court

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article77075917.html>

Jason M. Rodriguez

Ten media organizations filed a legal brief this week supporting The Sun News' petition asking the state Supreme Court to review an appeals court ruling in a defamation case brought by lobbyist Mark Kelley. The S.C. Court of Appeals ruling favored Kelley, who filed the suit against Sun Publishing Co. and investigative reporter David Wren. Wren now works for The Post and Courier in Charleston. The Sun News has asked the state Supreme Court to review the case, and regional and national media organizations filed an amici brief supporting that petition Tuesday.

**Post and Courier:** Group forming to promote half-cent sales tax referendum in Charleston County

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160512/PC16/160519796>

Diane Knich

A group is forming to promote a referendum for another half-cent sales tax for roads in Charleston County, says Jim Rozier, former Berkeley County supervisor and former chairman of the S.C. Department of Transportation commission. Rozier, who now does independent consulting work, said he will be chairman of the group, which also will raise money to promote its efforts. He will be paid from money that's raised, he said. The group, Charleston County Voters for Transportation, has a petition called "Complete the Penny" on Change.org, which so far has garnered 225 signatures.

**Post and Courier:** Family of librarian killed in Emanuel AME shooting launches literacy effort

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160512/PC16/160519803>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Growing up, when Cynthia Graham Hurd's four brothers raced outside to play in their free time, she'd park herself on the front porch with a good book. On Thursday, almost a year after she was killed with eight others at Emanuel AME Church, those brothers announced the creation of a literacy foundation to honor the woman who grew up to spend 31 years as a librarian and branch manager in the Charleston County Public Library system. "Cynthia loved reading and sharing literacy with people of all ages," brother Malcolm Graham said. "This is about creating who Cynthia was in life."

**Independent Mail:** Anderson District 5 could save \$450K by switching security

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/education/anderson-district-5-could-save-450k-by-switching-security-32989e63-90c8-665d-e053-0100007f959f-379063831.html>

Michael Ellis

Anderson School District 5 is considering dropping most of its school resource officers in favor of private security in an effort to save money. The district spends \$1 million a year on officers and private security and it could save up to \$450,000 a year if they replaced 12 sworn officers with private security officers, according to figures provided by the district. At a Thursday meeting, a school board committee will be given three options to consider for how much of the school security team should be law enforcement as opposed to private.

**Independent Mail:** Group looks to recruit more foster parents in Oconee County

<http://www.independentmail.com/topstories/group-looks-to-recruit-more-foster-parents-in-oconee-county-326931cd-92da-143d-e053-0100007f4543-379041221.html>

Ray Chandler

On Monday, the Oconee County Foster Parent Association and the Oconee Friends of the Guardian Ad Litem will hold The Challenge to Alleviate the Foster Care Crisis in Oconee County, an information and recruitment drive at the Seneca High School, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Aimed primarily at churches and the faith community, the event aims to find stable and secure homes for children in need of a refuge. "There are 34 foster homes in Oconee County, but we have over 150 children," said Abby Crooks of the Oconee County Foster Parent Association. "We need to find more foster homes."

**Note:** Statewide, 54 percent of foster children must be placed outside the counties of their residence. Dealing with that is the goal of a statewide campaign, Champions for Children, launched by Gov. Nikki Haley to find and license more foster families.

**Associated Press:** Food distributor expanding, adding 30 Calhoun County jobs

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

SC State Wire

A company that distributes frozen foods is expanding its operations in Calhoun County, adding 30 new jobs. Southeast Frozen Foods announced Thursday it is spending \$6 million to expand its facility located near Gaston. The company distributes frozen and refrigerated foods to stores and also provides cold storage services to processors and growers of South Carolina food products.

**Associated Press:** Recycling company creating 200 jobs in Berkeley County

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=c3BZO9av](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=c3BZO9av)

SC State Wire

A company that recycles old tires and plastics into semi-finished materials for export to China is creating 200 jobs at a plant in Berkeley County. Viva Holdings Group, Inc. announced on Thursday that the company will be investing \$28 million renovating a site in St. Stephen. The company uses recycled rubber and recycled plastics from industrial and consumer sources.

**Post and Courier:** Tire recycler says it will bring 200 jobs to upper Berkeley County

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160512/PC05/160519802>

Viva Holdings Group Inc., a tire and rubber recycling business, said it will invest \$28 million to expand into St. Stephen in a deal that's expected to create 200 jobs. The plant is scheduled to open in the rural upper Berkeley County town in the first quarter of 2017 and could be expanded. Viva's subsidiary, Viva TPE Products, LLC, is a manufacturer of semi-finished rubber goods with proprietary technology for export to China, along with a variety injection-molded finished products.

**Island Packet:** Controversial Port Royal property in Okatie shielded from development

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/business/real-estate-news/article77187067.html>

Stephen Fastenau

A Port Royal property in Okatie once at the center of an annexation and development dispute will be shielded from development. The 95-acre Mobley tract near the Chechessee River will be bought and managed by the Beaufort County Rural and Critical and Lands program and Port Royal Sound Foundation. The county is paying \$2.5 million and the Port Royal Sound Foundation is contributing \$800,000 to buy the property from Charleston developer Lyttleton Partners.

**National News:**

**Associated Press:** Trump the outsider starts mending fences with the insiders

<http://bigstory.ap.org/de2984ae94eb4ff09289e29be39bbfc7>

Erica Werner

Donald Trump and House Speaker Paul Ryan pledged to work together despite their differences after a meeting Thursday aimed at unifying a party torn over Trump's rise to the cusp of the Republican presidential nomination. The speaker stopped short of a full-throated endorsement but appeared closer to one. Trump and Ryan issued a statement describing their meeting as a "very positive step toward unification" that recognized "many important areas of common ground" as well as areas where they disagree. Ryan stunned Republicans by withholding his endorsement a week ago when it became clear Trump was on a firm path to the nomination.

**Associated Press:** Nero wasn't involved in Gray's arrest, defense attorney says

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6ca5ee96331d420097ef1bba16926e54>

Juliet Linderman

Prosecutors say Edward Nero, whose trial in the arrest and subsequent death of Freddie Gray began Thursday, failed in his duty when he and other officers unlawfully arrested Gray, then neglected to buckle the shackled man's seat belt. But defense attorney Marc Zayon told Baltimore Circuit Judge Barry Williams that Nero, a volunteer firefighter with a passion for helping others, was justified when he chased Gray through West Baltimore because there was probable cause, as well as a directive from the State's Attorney's Office to be bullish about patrolling that particular area.

**Associated Press:** Online auction halted for gun used to kill Trayvon Martin

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e8f22f2835834e768c81567b1d7720fd>

Freida Frisaro

An online auction was halted without explanation Thursday for the pistol that former Florida neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman used to kill unarmed black teenager Trayvon Martin. The weapon was removed from the GunBroker.com website, minutes after the auction was to

begin. It was not immediately clear why the website took down the listing. Critics called the planned auction an insensitive move to profit from the slaying.

**World News:**

**Associated Press:** Brazil president blasts critics, vows to fight impeachment

<http://bigstory.ap.org/924024d8b7164ac68351d4e61927d99d>

Jenny Barchfield and Mauricio Savarese

Brazil's suspended President Dilma Rousseff vowed Thursday to use "all legal means" to fight permanent ouster in an impeachment trial, raising the specter of continued political turmoil as interim leader Michel Temer tries to rescue a sinking economy. Speaking hours after the Senate voted to impeach her, in what might prove her last official event within the presidential palace, the nation's first female president blasted the process as "fraudulent" and said it was an injustice more painful than the torture she endured under a past military dictatorship.

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