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Subject: Clips – Sunday, June 19, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Palmetto Business Daily: New plastics plant to boost Anderson County economy

<http://palmettobusinessdaily.com/stories/510899412-new-plastics-plant-to-boost-anderson-county-economy>

Anderson County will soon welcome a strong injection of economic stimulation thanks to Engineered Plastic Components Inc.'s (EPC) decision to invest \$5.3 million in a new plant based in Anderson and the creation of 43 jobs. EPC produces and markets thermoplastic products for numerous industries including the automotive, home appliance and medical sectors. The facility will be located at 105 Clemson Research Blvd. Public and private figures alike greeted the plan with enthusiasm. EPC's CEO Reza Kargarzadeh expressed excitement, calling the location ideal for achieving EPC's growth goals.

Note: "We could not be more excited to welcome Engineered Plastic Components to the South Carolina family," Gov. Nikki Haley. "This investment ... is a huge win for our entire state, and we look forward to watching this fantastic company thrive and grow here for many years to come."

The State: THE BUZZ: Is Gov. Nikki Haley a lame duck?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article84638722.html>

Cassie Cope

Gov. Nikki Haley's influence over the S.C. Legislature is waning. In her six years in office, Haley – like her Republican predecessor Mark Sanford – has clashed repeatedly with lawmakers in the GOP-controlled General Assembly. In her first term, Haley gave lawmakers report cards. She also once told a real estate group to "take a good shower" after visiting the State House, and she often takes to her Facebook page urging lawmakers to vote a certain way on legislation. This year, Haley helped a political group raise more than \$500,000, mostly from out-of-state donors, in an effort to oust longtime state Senate leaders in the June 14 GOP primary. However, Haley's chosen challengers won only one of the three Senate contests thus far decided. (Another will be decided by a June 28 runoff.) Not everyone agrees Haley's influence is waning. Haley has used her bully pulpit effectively in the past, most successfully when she called for lawmakers to remove the Confederate flag from the State House in the wake of the Charleston church shooting.

WCIV: Gov. Haley: Don't forget the survivors, they are proof angels walk on Earth

<http://abcnews4.com/news/local/latest-on-anniversary-of-tragedy-charleston-pauses-to-remember>

Sam Tyson

Gov. Nikki Haley struggled at times during her remarks at the worship service for Emanuel AME (WATCH VIDEO), showing the congregation each of the programs she picked up at nine funerals for the victims there. Haley says she spent time learning about each of the victims, going deeper than their names. But she also urged people not to forget those who did not die in the shooting. She says they are proof that real angels walk on Earth. Haley said Polly Sheppard, Felicia Sanders, and Sanders' granddaughter have spent the last year teaching her what true courage is.

Emanuel AME Shooting Anniversary:

The State: Sounds of a city healing: The Emanuel AME shooting, one year later

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article84644502.html>

Sarah Ellis

The sound of nine doves' white wings flap above Mother Emanuel – with the church's bells tolling over a

crowd that's silent, save for the scuffle of thousands of feet on the pavement. The doves, one in honor of each innocent life violently taken inside the church a year ago, circle the steeple once or twice. They fly high and away together over a city filled with the sounds of bicycles whirring, tourists gawking, glasses clinking – sounds of a city that moves on while still healing from the most unthinkable of tragedies. For the congregation of Emanuel AME Church and for the Holy City it anchors, healing in the days marking the one-year anniversary of the deaths of the Emanuel Nine sounded like the gentle rustle of sweetgrass flowers tied to a metal gate outside the church, left there by tribute payers to say, "We remember. We care."

Post and Courier: Charleston Strong: A rallying cry in a time of mourning

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160618/PC16/160619418>

Abigail Darlington and Paul Bowers

Words never did justice to the violence of last year's attack on Emanuel AME Church. Words failed observers nationwide as the family members of the victims stood in court and told the shooter, "I forgive you." But somehow a simple phrase seemed to capture the families' and the city's response, from profound acts of grace to a massive display of racial unity as thousands held hands across the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge: "Charleston Strong." At its best, Charleston Strong is a tribute to the people who died on June 17, 2015, and a cry of resistance from a city in mourning. At its worst, some fear, it is a tacky bandage on an open wound.

Post and Courier: Unity Walk honors Emanuel AME victims, focuses on conquering hate with love

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160618/PC16/160619397>

Alison Graham and Drrek Asberry

The Rev. Shirley Caesar told thousands outside of the Charleston Gaillard Center that even she, as a pastor, had trouble finding forgiveness a year ago when she heard that nine Charleston churchgoers had been shot and killed during a Wednesday Bible study. But, Caesar said, "If you don't get rid of hate it'll bury you." The spiritual singing and unified marching during Saturday's Unity Walk suggested that the families of the victims, who led the walk, were also leading the community in continuing its shared sense of forgiveness. Charleston Police Department estimates that roughly 500 people participated in the walk. The Hate Won't Win Movement, one of the organizers of the event, believes that overall attendance on Saturday was upwards of 2,000 people.

Post and Courier: Hundreds gather at Second Presbyterian Church to pray a year after Emanuel shooting

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160618/PC16/160619398>

Thad Moore

They shared supper and communion. They prayed and they sang. They gathered to remember, and to look forward. And then they linked hands. "It's been a year, and we've been healing. Yet we still have more healing to do," said Rev. Sidney Davis, standing among hundreds of worshippers holding hands inside Second Presbyterian Church. "It's time for us to hold hands. It's time for us to not be afraid." The hundreds who gathered Friday night came from congregations across the Lowcountry, representing many denominations at a community supper and church service attended by three survivors of the Emanuel AME Church shooting. They came in hope of carrying forward the sense of unity that swept over South Carolina a year ago.

Post and Courier: Emanuel AME Church shooting victims' loved ones create nonprofits to carry on their passions

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160618/PC16/160619396>

Family members grappling with the loss of loved ones in the Emanuel AME Church shooting have created a variety of nonprofits to carry on their relatives' legacies: Rev. Clementa Pinckney's wife, Jennifer, and his close friends created the Hon. Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney Foundation "to improve the quality of life for all South Carolina citizens by supporting religious, educational and charitable causes that the late Senator supported while serving as a leader in his church, community and the South Carolina Senate." Kevin Singleton, the late Myra Thompson's son, created the nonprofit Passion to Forgive to carry on her outreach work. It focuses on providing educational and developmental opportunities for underserved youth and their families. The Hate Won't Win movement began as a social media hashtag after the shooting. At a bond hearing for the accused killer, the Rev. Dan Simmons Sr.'s granddaughter, Alana, uttered those words. Since then, she has launched a

nationwide effort to unite people of diverse backgrounds.

Post and Courier: Millions of dollars in donations flowed into Emanuel AME after the shooting

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160618/PC16/160619419>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

After the Emanuel AME Church shooting, thousands of mourners from across the globe donated money as a tangible way to show love and support for people and a house of worship grievously wounded. Restaurateurs donated. So did musicians and CEOs. And average Joes and Janes. Small bills and large checks flowed into the church, often in giant incoming mail bags. People tacked cash onto memorials outside the church and slipped it into the church's office. South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. donated \$100,000. Pharrell Williams announced at a church service he'd made a "handsome" donation to the church. Barely a month after the massacre, church leaders said they'd received more than \$2 million in the outpouring of grief. Now, a year later, how much in donations did the church receive? By its account, \$3.3 million.

Orlando Shooting News:

Associated Press: As Orlando funerals wrap up, survivors worry about future

<http://bigstory.ap.org/2d7bbb68bda64c7495c1c8028820b07a>

Terrance Harris, Jason Dearen and Alex Sanz

A week has passed since the Orlando nightclub shooting that killed 49 club patrons and the funeral processions are wrapping up, but survivors and victims' families say they realize the nightmare will live on long after the world's attention fades. Jeannette McCoy made it out of the Pulse nightclub alive on June 12 as gunman Omar Mateen continued a shooting that also wounded and maimed 53 others before he died in a hail of police gunfire. McCoy said the love and support can only do so much to help. It's a temporary balm, she said, and she worried that while life may return to normal for some people after the world's attention moves on, it won't for Orlando's LGBT community.

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: Catherine Templeton mulling run for governor in 2018

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160618/160619454/catherine-templeton-mulling-run-for-governor-in-2018>

Count former DHEC director Catherine Templeton in the conversation for governor in 2018. Templeton recently told several of the other Republicans interested in succeeding Nikki Haley in the Governor's Mansion that she would confirm to them by the end of the calendar year whether she'll run. Right now she's talking to groups of business leaders and other policy experts on drafting goals and reforms the next governor should be pursuing. "Whether it's me or somebody better than me," Templeton said of those who might take those ideas and run with them. Among the other Republicans in the early 2018 conversation, or thinking about running, are state Rep. Tommy Pope of York, U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney of Indian Land, Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, Columbia real estate developer Bill Stern, and Attorney General Alan Wilson. There's sure to be others.

Palmetto Business Daily: Sen. Graham lauds passage of National Defense Authorization Act

<http://palmettobusinessdaily.com/stories/510899483-sen-graham-lauds-passage-of-national-defense-authorization-act>

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) was a driving force behind the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which passed in the Senate by a vote of 85 to 13 this past week. The NDAA, which calls for significant reforms of systems within the Pentagon, will now head to conference with the House of Representatives. "Ensuring our men and women in uniform have the necessary tools, training, and equipment to carry out their critical mission of protecting our nation is the first responsibility of a member of Congress," Graham said. "(In the bill) we showed strong support for keeping Guantanamo Bay open and ensuring the detainees currently housed there remain there. We authorized additional funds in the Defense Health Program budget for military health system reforms."

Post and Courier: When it comes to environmental votes, does a lawmaker's geography matter? Maybe, maybe not

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160619/160619425/when-it-comes-to-environmental-votes-does-a-lawmakers-geography-matter-maybe-maybe-not>

Emma Dumain

Does a person have to live on the coast of South Carolina to appreciate the anxiety of rising sea levels, crippling floods and eroding beaches? Not necessarily, U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford said recently. But he said it does affect how a lawmaker could view the debate surrounding climate change, conservation and the environment. "What I observed when I was governor is there is a clear sliding scale on environmental issues where the closer you get to the coast, the more relevant it is," Sanford, a Republican from Mount Pleasant, said. For Sanford, a recent week in Washington, D.C., was defined in part by his environmental record. First he circulated a letter co-signed by 49 Democrats but only five other Republicans urging the Obama administration to deny leasing the offshore Atlantic for seismic airgun testing for oil and natural gas. Sanford argued it was unnecessary and could cause irrevocable harm to marine life.

Post and Courier: While the Confederate flag has been furled, debate over it still fluttering

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160618/160619423/while-the-confederate-flag-has-been-furled-debate-over-it-still-fluttering->

Gavin Jackson and Robert Behre

Next month, a group plans to return to the Statehouse grounds here and use a portable pole to raise a Confederate flag similar to the one furled a year ago in the wake of the Emanuel AME Church shooting. James Bessenger, founder of the S.C. Secessionist Party, estimates that a few hundred people will attend, and he hopes their presence sends a signal to state leaders. "The event is to show the Legislature, the governor and the people who made it a full-time job attacking the flag last summer that this isn't going away," he said. Last year, Confederate flags were removed not only from the Statehouse grounds in Columbia but also in Montgomery, Ala. Other states and cities removed similar flags and emblems, and New Orleans went as far as removing Confederate monuments. All of it riled and motivated many people who felt the banner stood for their heritage, not hate.

SC Elections:

The Herald: What Rock Hill GOP Senate winner Climer plans to do next

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/politics-government/article84667297.html>

Bristow Marchant

Wes Climer triumphed in one of the most-watched political races in South Carolina on Tuesday, when he unseated 25-year incumbent Sen. Wes Hayes in the Republican primary for the South Carolina Senate. Without any opposition in November's general election, the Charlotte-based financial adviser and former York County GOP chairman is all but certain to be Rock Hill's next state senator. He sat down with The Herald to talk about the election and his plans for the future...

The Herald: Hayes happy with new job – 'former senator from York County'

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/politics-government/article84667557.html>

Bristow Marchant

Just days after he narrowly lost his run for a seventh consecutive term in the S.C. Senate by 350 votes, Wes Hayes seems placid. Sitting in his Rock Hill law office, Hayes talks about how, after three decades in Columbia, he looks forward to practicing law "full time," practicing alongside his son and looking forward to the birth of his first grandchild. As much as he enjoyed being one of the most senior members of the Legislature, he says he has what he considers the "best job" now. "It's not such a bad thing to be the former senator from York County either," Hayes said with a smile. Hayes had just returned from a short "sine die" session at the Statehouse to finalize the state's budget, convened the day after his primary loss. It was likely the last time Hayes will set foot in the chamber as a member, and his colleagues gave him a heartfelt sendoff.

Associated Press: Bjorn certified as Democrat 2nd District winner by 45 votes

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ED2Ay7DT

SC State Wire

Arik Bjorn has been declared the winner of the Democratic primary in South Carolina's 2nd Congressional race by 45 votes out of more than 19,000 cast. The South Carolina Election Commission certified the results Saturday afternoon after a recount mandated by law. Tuesday's unofficial count had Bjorn bearing Phil Black by 49 votes. The margin of 0.3 percent over Phil Black was well within the 1 percent required for a recount. Bjorn's final margin is 0.2 percent. The Columbia librarian will face longtime incumbent Republican U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson and a third-party candidate in November. Black ran as a Republican four years ago and did not change his positions significantly for this year's race. He has until Monday at noon to protest the race with the South Carolina Democratic Party.

The State: Bjorn narrowly wins 2nd District primary over 'fake Democrat'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article84603372.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Librarian Arik Bjorn on Saturday officially clinched the right to face veteran U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, a Lexington County Republican, in the Nov. 8 general election. Bjorn edged past semi-retired hardware store owner Phil Black by 45 votes of 19,317 cast in Tuesday's 2nd District Democratic primary, a recount showed. 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 certified the final results of the multi-county recount on Saturday because of a glitch in Richland County on Friday. Richland County Elections Commission Director Sam Selph on Friday said absentee votes from 21 voting machines were not retrievable immediately because the machines' batteries died during the mandatory recount required by the close vote.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Have our lawmakers lost interest in judicial integrity?

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scoppe/article84635457.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

When legislators are willing to put their names on affidavits alleging that a judge violated state law, it seems to me that a body called the Judicial Merit Selection Commission has an obligation at least to ask some questions. And when the Legislature is told that the commission has not asked those questions, it seems to me that it ought to refuse to hold an election until they are asked. The fact that legislators didn't do that suggests they don't care about the rule of law, which is bad enough under normal circumstances but exponentially worse when the law in question concerns the integrity of our judges. It almost makes you wonder why we let the legislative branch of government elect the judicial branch.

Post and Courier: Wanted: Congressional courage to close gun loopholes

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160619/PC1001/160619382>

Opinion: Kathleen Parker

The arguments for and against gun control are so familiar by now, we might as well hit replay and skip the debate. In the wake of the horrific murders of 49 people in an Orlando gay nightclub, America is re-enacting the usual drama: Politicians repeat past arguments, citizens retreat into their routines, killers reload. Come Monday, Senate Democrats and Republicans are scheduled to roll out four gun-control bills — two from each side — attached as amendments to the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations bill. And, of course, given that 60 votes are needed to pass, none is expected to. The most anyone can agree upon, including the National Rifle Association, is that terrorists shouldn't have guns. Well, it's something. I guess. The holdup, as always, is how to balance the right to bear arms with the right to avoid being killed by a nut with a semi-automatic weapon. This shouldn't be too terribly hard to figure out, though you'd think we were cave dwellers trying to map the human genome.

South Carolina News:

The State: State's penny-pinching ways crippled dam safety program

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article84662662.html>

Sammy Fretwell

Tree limbs, broken medical equipment, crumbling walls and ankle-deep muck greeted Nori Warren the day she walked into her storm-battered veterinary clinic after the worst flood Columbia had experienced in decades. Upstream dams had broken, adding millions of gallons of water to the already rain-choked Gills Creek system. Warren's business, Four Paws Animal Clinic, sustained about \$600,000 in flood damage that her insurance won't cover. Today, as Warren seeks financing to build a new clinic, she says a stronger state dam safety program could have protected her business from the damage it suffered in October. "In hindsight, they could have done more," Warren said of S.C. Regulators.

The State: 1,000 other unsafe dams in SC?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article84651272.html>

Sammy Fretwell

For years, a dam at Pine Tree Lake sat in relative obscurity, an earthen structure that state officials never thought significant enough to inspect. But as northeast Richland County grew, hundreds of homes and businesses sprouted below the dam. Last October, the dam — a structure that state regulators failed to keep track of — broke during a severe rainstorm and flood that hammered Columbia. Water poured down Jackson Creek, contributing to the historic deluge that kept Decker Boulevard closed for three weeks. Some homes in the area sustained damage. Businesses lost customers. State officials now acknowledge the Pine Tree Lake dam was a hazardous structure and should have been regulated by the state.

Associated Press: Interstate 77 widening north of Columbia to start Monday

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=d9bKKVGS

SC State Wire

A two-year project to widen 7 miles of Interstate 77 north of Columbia is getting ready to begin. The South Carolina Department of Transportation said construction on the \$88 million project will begin Monday and is scheduled to last through July 2018. The widening includes the only two-lane stretch of I-77 in the Columbia area between the state Highway 277 exit and the Interstate 20 interchange. The project includes expanding about a dozen bridges and resurfacing a crumbling 5-mile stretch of the freeway north of the widening. The DOT says both lanes of I-77 should stay open during the day to minimize delays.

Post and Courier: Power surge: Cost overruns at South Carolina nuclear plant growing part of SCE&G customer bills

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160618/PC05/160619424>

David Wren

The state legislation allowing South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. to charge customers for two new reactors at its nuclear power plant years before they are completed has been compared to making payments on a new car without knowing the final price and before it leaves the assembly line. The monthly payments continue to rise, but it's not certain whether the customer making those payments will ever drive the car. At least now, SCE&G's customers have an idea how much the expansion of the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station is costing them each month. The state's Office of Regulatory Staff, which represents the public's interest in utility issues, this month said SCE&G's customers are paying an average of \$23.16 each billing period — or 16.1 percent of their total bill — toward building the Midlands nuclear plant.

Associated Press: Drought creeping into northwest South Carolina

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

Jeffrey Collins

People might not know it from the lush fields and full lakes in most of South Carolina, but drought is creeping into the northwest corner of the state. A June heat wave combined with weeks of dry weather has a moderate drought now covering nearly all of four counties, according to data from the National Drought Mitigation Center. The biggest worry is agriculture, where farmers who grow corn and other row crops need rain to help their plants thrive. Stream flows and groundwater levels are still high from abundant rains in the winter and

fall, but a true long, hot, dry summer could begin to deplete those reserves, officials said.

Associated Press: Environmental groups threaten to sue SC, feds over seawalls

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=TJ9TjmuF

SC State Wire

Two environmental groups are threatening to sue South Carolina and the federal government if they don't protect sea turtles from new hard plastic seawalls first installed on beaches a few years ago. The State newspaper reports (<http://bit.ly/1Qd4FvH>) the state Sierra Club and Wildlife Federation sent a notice giving the governments 60 days to act. The state Department of Health and Environmental Control says it is investigating a picture of turtle tracks leading to a wall and other reports the seawalls are blocking turtle nests. Lawmakers allowed the seawalls as part of an experiment to see if officials could stop erosion and protect turtles.

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:

Associated Press: Aiken prepares to pay more to replace \$15-a-day inmate labor

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

SC State Wire

The city of Aiken is warning it will have to replace 10 inmates paid \$15 a day to pick up trash and do landscaping with 20 temporary workers who get \$10 an hour after South Carolina officials decided to close a nearby prison. The decision by the state Corrections Department to close Lower Savannah Pre-Release Center and move its inmates and workers to Trenton Correctional Institution about 17 miles away is hurting other governments in the area too. Aiken County leaders have said it may cost more than \$1 million to replace to 20 inmates that clean, do vehicle maintenance and help with animal control with regular paid workers. North Augusta officials said they may have to spend around \$200,000 to replace the roughly 15 state prisoners who work mostly in a recycling facility.

Herald-Journal: Upstate nonprofits step in to provide services to released inmates

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160619/articles/160619685>

Bob Montgomery

With few services available for inmates upon release, some faith-based community groups have stepped in to help fill the gap. Here are two in the Upstate that are working to keep people out of jail...

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg jail struggles to provide for mental health needs

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160618/articles/160619691>

Robert W. Dalton and Daniel J. Gross

Robert Lewis Gray was talking to himself as he walked down the middle of Howard Street on the night of Sept. 22, 2012. The conversation was loud and heated, and when an officer arrived at the scene, Gray took a swing at him. Police charged Gray with public disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. He's spent most of his time since in the Spartanburg County jail. Gray, 64, was declared mentally incompetent to stand trial in 2013. On March 27, 2015, he was ordered to undergo involuntary inpatient care. For more than 14 months after that order, Gray languished in the jail awaiting a bed in a state Department of Mental Health hospital. A week after the Herald-Journal began asking the 7th Circuit Solicitor's Office and the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office

about Gray's case, a bed became available. He left the jail for Columbia at 4:19 a.m. on June 2, less than six hours before he was scheduled to talk to reporters for this article. Gray's saga is not uncommon, and the story is not unique to Spartanburg County.

Post and Courier: Coastal Carolina baseball coach Gilmore named national coach of the year

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160619/PC20/160619364>

After leading Coastal Carolina to its first-ever trip to the College World Series, Chanticleers head coach Gary Gilmore was named the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association national coach of the year. Gilmore's squad punched its first ticket to the CWS with a thrilling 4-3 walk-off victory over LSU in Game 2 of the Baton Rouge Super Regional. The victory was the 49th of the season for the Chanticleers, who have made 15 regional appearances and three super regional appearances under Gilmore's watch. Coastal opened the season ranked No. 24 in the NCBWA preseason poll, and after dropping out for several weeks, returned to the rankings on April 18 and has remained there.

World News:

Associated Press: Iran aviation official says Boeing sale involves 100 planes

<http://bigstory.ap.org/bbc25d95529840e0adb9c000a7be9cd3>

Nasser Karimi and Jon Gambrell

Boeing Co. is negotiating a deal to sell 100 airplanes to Iran, state-run media reported Sunday, a sale potentially worth billions that would mark the first major entry of an American company into the Islamic Republic after last year's nuclear deal. Chicago-based Boeing declined to discuss details of the talks or the figure of 100 planes, attributed to Ali Abedzadeh, the head of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization. Regulatory hurdles and U.S. sanctions that remain in place after the nuclear agreement could complicate the deal. Despite efforts by the U.S. State Department to encourage trade to Iran, many American firms remain worried about the legal and political ramifications of any agreements with the country.

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